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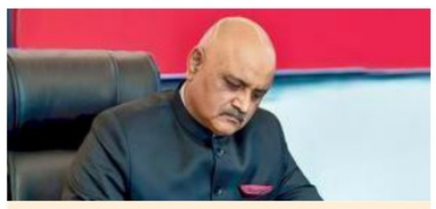

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RTC unions to go on strike

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Despite a wage hike of 12.5% for RTC employees, the Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has said it will go ahead with an indefinite strike from May 20. » PAGE 6

Vijay wins floor test with 144 votes; AIADMK divided

TVK-led government secures confidence vote in Tamil Nadu Assembly with 25 AIADMK MLAs voting in its favour; rift widens in AIADMK as Palaniswami removes 26 rebel functionaries

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay comfortably won the trust vote in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Wednesday with the support of the Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK, and IUML, as well as that of 25 rebel AIADMK MLAs and the lone AMMK MLA.

The confidence motion moved by Mr. Vijay was put to vote by Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam legislators and the lone Desiya Murpokku Dravidar Kazhagam MLA, Premallatha Vijayakant, walked out.

The vote came despite AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami's opposition to allowing S.P. Velumani, rebel AIADMK leader and his confidant until a few days ago, from speaking on the party's behalf.

The rift in the AIADMK widened on Wednesday night with Mr. Palaniswami removing 26 rebel district secretaries, including 12 legislators, from their positions.

Among those who were sacked from their posts were Mr. Velumani and C.Ve. Shanmugam, both former Ministers.

Support check: Chief Minister Vijay delivers a speech in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday. ANI

Deepening fault lines

Earlier in the day, Mr. Velumani's camp pledged support to Mr. Vijay as the government secured 144 votes in the floor test.

While 22 MLAs from Mr. Palaniswami's camp opposed it, four Pattali Makkal Katchi MLAs and the lone Bharatiya Janata Party MLA 'abstained' from voting.

Reiterating that this was "the common people's rule," Mr. Vijay said the government was for the good of everyone and the public would realise this as time goes by.

"This is not a government to show power or authority, or hatred. People and public welfare are important. It is the sole objective of this government," he said.

'People's faith'

Thanking everyone in the Assembly, Mr. Vijay said the people had reposed faith in the TVK-led government, just as they did in 1967 and 1977 to usher in "governments of the common people."

The "whistle revolution" had secured over 34.92% of votes to elect the TVK as the single-largest party in less than three years of its formation.

"The majority was missed by a thin margin. If anyone thinks that this is a minority government, we are happy. This is a minority government, which will truly safeguard the rights of the minorities," he said, adding that his government was for everyone which has been reflected in the confidence motion. The Chief Minister further promised a democratic, secular regime rooted in social justice.

Government doubles duty on imports of gold, silver

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Centre has doubled the effective tax paid on the import of gold and silver to a total of 18.4% from the previous 9.2%. The changes, which came into effect on Wednesday, were made through two separate notifications issued late on Tuesday night.

According to sources in the government, the decision was taken against the backdrop of the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's current account deficit (CAD). The CAD is the margin by which a country's total imports of goods, services, and transfers exceeds its exports.

However, industry players and experts, said this "retrograde" and "blunt" decision is not likely to impact Indians' demand for gold.

It will not only encourage a shift to smuggling, since the Indian appetite for gold is largely cultural, but will also have other negative effects on employment, they said.

The Ministry of Finance has not yet released an official statement on the duty hikes or its justifications.

Previously, the basic customs duty on gold and silver stood at 5%, with a 1% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC), and a 3% Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) rate on the total assessable value of the imports, which includes the cost, insurance, and freight price, and the applicable basic customs duties, taking the effective import tax to about 9.2%. Now, the customs duty has been hiked to 10%, and the AIDC has become 5%, taking the effective tax rate, including the IGST, to about 18.4%.

The decision comes soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exhortations to the public to reduce gold purchases for at least a year, among other actions, to help protect India's foreign exchange reserves and the rupee exchange rate.

'Prudent management'

"The current geopolitical situation has created significant volatility in global crude oil markets and international shipping routes," a government source explained. "As a large importer of crude oil, India remains vulnerable to elevated energy prices and supply-side disruptions, which can increase the import bill, exert pressure on inflation, and the CAD."

"In such circumstances, prudent management of the country's external sector becomes essential," they added.

They further said that the government was prioritising India's foreign exchange resources towards essential imports such as crude oil, fertilizers, industrial raw materials, defence requirements, critical technologies, and capital goods. "In contrast, precious metals, while culturally and financially significant, are predominantly consumption and investment driven in nature," they said. "Such imports involve substantial outflow of foreign exchange."

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Bullion burden

The decision comes soon after Prime Minister Modi's austerity appeal to the public to reduce gold purchases

Tax	Earlier	Now
Basic customs duty	5%	10%
Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess	1%	5%
Integrated Goods and Services Tax*	3%	3%
Total	**~9.2%**	**~18.4%**

Note: IGST is applicable on the assessable value of the gold, which includes the Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) value and the basic customs duty

'Limited' religious symbols to be allowed with uniforms in Karnataka schools and colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Wednesday withdrew the 2022 order on uniforms and dress code in educational institutions and replaced it with a fresh order allowing students to wear "limited" traditional and faith-based symbols along with prescribed uniforms in schools and colleges across the State, announced Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa.

The May 13 order revokes the previous BJP government's February 5, 2022, directive, which had required students to wear prescribed uniforms and had become the basis for restrictions that later triggered the hijab row.

However, Mr. Bangarappa did not directly say that the "hijab ban" had been revoked. "What the government has done is withdraw the earlier order and replace it with one that explicitly allows limited faith-based symbols, including sacred threads, headscarves, along with uniforms," the Minister said.

The decision comes weeks after an incident reported on April 24 during the Common Entrance Test (CET), when three students at a college in Koramangala in Bengaluru were asked by authorities to remove their 'janivaras' (sacred threads) before entering the examination hall. The Minister said schools and colleges are not just places for academic learning but spaces where students should also learn Constitutional values such as equality, dignity, fraternity, discipline, mutual respect, rational thinking and scientific temper.

Educational institutions must promote a secular outlook, he said, adding that secularism did not mean opposing individual beliefs. Instead, it meant equal respect for all religions and traditions, institutional neutrality and non-discriminatory treatment of students.

Mr. Bangarappa said, "Since the implementation of the 2022 order, we have been receiving concerns about students wearing faith-based symbols such as 'janivara' or headscarf. After reviewing the issue, we concluded that institutional discipline can be maintained without restricting such symbols, as long as they do not interfere with identification of students, safety, teaching or public order."

The order also notes that the government reviewed dress code rules followed in Kendriya Vidyalaya schools before framing the revised directions.

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CBI arrests five, conducts raids across India in NEET leak case

Devesh K. Pandey
Snehal Mutha
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested five persons and conducted searches at locations across the country in connection with alleged irregularities related to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) paper leak. Three brothers – Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal – were taken into custody from Jaipur, Yash Yadav was picked up from Gurugram, and Shubham Khairnar from Nashik in Maharashtra, it said. The Maharashtra Police detained two more suspects in the case and handed them over to the CBI.

A man arrested in the NEET-UG paper leak case being taken to a court in Jaipur. PTI

The police nabbed Manisha Waghmare, a beauty salon owner, from Bibwewadi, and Dhananjay Lokhande, an ayurveda practitioner, from Rahuri in the early hours of Wednesday.

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Three tribal church leaders killed in Manipur ambush

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

Suspected armed extremists ambushed a team of tribal church leaders in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Wednesday, killing three of them and injuring four. The victims, members of the Thadou Baptist Association of India (TBAI) and the United Baptist Council, were travelling in two vehicles from a Baptist convention in Churachandpur to Kangpokpi when they were attacked.

The incident occurred on Tiger Road between Kotlen and Kotzim villages around 10 a.m.

One of the survivors told security personnel that the assailants came on foot and slipped away after firing a volley of bullets for three or four minutes.

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A bronze that confirmed India's elite status

The nation may have won the 2022 Thomas Cup title, but by following it up with another podium finish, it showed that the earlier achievement was no flash in the pan

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Devyanshi Bihani

Three weeks ago, the Indian men's badminton team had left for Denmark with barely any national conversation around them. When they returned home with a Thomas Cup bronze medal – only India's second medal in the tournament's 78-year history – that had hardly changed.

No crowds waited at the airport. No frenzy surrounded the team that had just fought its way into the final four of badminton's biggest team championship. The moment dissolved into the rumble of trolley wheels, the mechanical hum of conveyor belts and the clipped repetition of arrival announcements. Somewhere between the baggage belts and sliding glass doors, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy posted what many interpreted as an expression of disappointment.

"Back home now. As usual, no one knows what happened over the past two weeks, and it seems like no one really cares," he wrote on *Instagram* alongside a picture of the team at the airport.

The post quickly travelled across social media, triggering debate over whether Indian athletes outside cricket received enough recognition. A few days later, as the discussion spiralled beyond his original point, Satwik felt compelled to explain himself.

"We don't want money or grand parades," he wrote in a statement. "We just want to know that our country is watching and that our efforts are seen." The clarification carried the exhaustion of an athlete trying to explain why silence can hurt more than criticism.

Satwik stressed that his comments were never meant to diminish achievements in other sports, nor were they driven by personal fame. The point, he said, was simple: India needs to build a culture that "encourages and celebrates every win, big or small. Whether it is a World Cup medal or a podium finish in a global championship like the Thomas Cup, these moments represent years of sacrifice and hard work," he wrote.

And perhaps that silence revealed that India still does not fully understand what the Thomas Cup represents. It is badminton's equivalent of the FIFA World Cup in prestige, and structurally closest to tennis' Davis Cup – a competition that measures not just individual brilliance, but the collective strength of a nation's badminton system.

One superstar cannot win it alone. Teams need depth across singles and doubles, tactical versatility, endurance, and the ability to withstand pressure across multiple ties against the sport's traditional powerhouses.

Historically, those giants have almost always been China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan. India spent decades looking at that table from the outside.

Transition

That reality has changed dramatically over the last five years. India's stunning Thomas Cup triumph in Bangkok in 2022 altered the imagination of Indian badminton forever. But in many ways, the bronze medal in Horsens this year may have been just as significant in understanding India's place in world badminton. While the gold could still be seen as a magical fortnight where everything aligned perfectly, this bronze felt like confirmation that India genuinely belongs among badminton's elite team nations and that the triumph in Bangkok was no one-off.

India entered the tournament seeded eighth. Several countries looked stronger on paper. Thailand had World No. 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn. Indonesia brought one of the deepest men's squads in the competition. Japan remained a perennial powerhouse. Chinese Taipei fielded two top-10 singles players in Chou Tien Chen and Lin Chun-Yi.

India, meanwhile, arrived with a squad in transition. Lakshya Sen carried significant expectations after his strong start to the year and deep run at the All England. Satwik and Chirag were returning from an injury-hit phase, while India's second doubles combination of M.R. Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan still lacked the assurance of a guaranteed point in big ties.

Much of the intrigue centred around Ayush Shetty, then 20, who had arrived at the tournament on the back of a breakthrough run to the Badminton Asia Championships final and was increasingly being seen as India's emerging singles force. H.S. Prannoy and K. Srikanth, the two most experienced players in the squad, entered carrying both the physical wear and tear of years on tour and the responsibility of guiding the team.

Yet, over the course of the week in Denmark, India rediscovered something that has increasingly become the identity of this team: resilience under pressure.

India's group-stage clash against China carried enormous symbolic weight. Four years after India's famous 3-2 win over China during its title-winning 2022 campaign, the tie once again felt like a measuring stick against badminton's greatest powerhouse, built on relentless depth, ruthless systems and an endless conveyor belt of elite players.

This time, though, India pushed them all the way again.

Lakshya fought Li Shifeng fiercely. Satwik and Chirag saved multiple match-points before narrowly losing to Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang. And then came Prannoy, producing what felt like one final vintage act of defiance in the dead rubber against Lu Guangzu.

Going toe-to-toe

India lost the tie 2-3, but walked away looking less like outsiders and more like a side capable of going toe-to-toe with the sport's traditional superpower.

The real breakthrough came in the quarterfinal against Taiwan, which possessed elite singles depth and a dangerous doubles combination. Anxiety surrounded Ayush, who was set to face Lin Chun-Yi, the All England champion who had beaten him in the Orleans Masters semifinals in March 2025.

Lakshya set the tone. Against the vastly experienced Chou Tien Chen, he clawed his way back from the brink, saving two game-points in the second set before turning the match around. Then Satwik and Chirag survived a ferocious contest to put India 2-0 ahead. Which meant everything suddenly rested on Ayush. That alone said something about how quickly India's badminton landscape is changing.

Four years ago, Ayush had watched India's Thomas Cup triumph on television. In Horsens, he walked on to the court carrying the weight of a nation's semifinal hopes. Yet, while the rest of India seemed tense, Ayush looked remarkably calm. He absorbed Chun-Yi's relentless attack, defended brilliantly and repeatedly found ways to wrest back control of points.

When the winning point landed, India had secured another Thomas Cup medal.

And in that moment, the tournament became about more than bronze.

Ayush's emergence symbolised continuity. India was no longer dependent on one golden generation peaking together. Beneath Lakshya, Satwik, Chirag and Prannoy, another layer was already forming. That is what strong sporting nations do. They renew themselves before decline arrives.

By the time India reached the semifinal against France, the Forum Horsens arena had found its two loudest teams of the tournament and the atmosphere reflected the stakes for both the countries.

The Indians beat daflis in the stands while the French responded with synchronised claps and booming songs. The noise ricocheted through the arena like a festival procession trapped inside a badminton hall. Both benches roared through every point, every retrieval and every momentum swing, turning the semifinal into one of the most emotionally charged ties of the week.

A story of its own

France, though, had arrived in Horsens with a story of its own.

By reaching the last four, France had already guaranteed itself a first-ever Thomas Cup medal. A landmark moment for a nation that has steadily built one of the strongest men's singles programmes in world badminton over the last few years. Along the way, France achieved a historic 4-1 upset victory against 14-time champion Indonesia and defeated Japan in the quarterfinals.

The rise had been driven by the extraordinary depth in singles: World No. 4 Christo Popov, his older brother Toma Junior Popov, and the explosive Alex Lanier, all ranked inside the world's top-17.

The semifinal eventually exposed the fine margins India had been operating under throughout the tournament. Lakshya missed the tie after injuring his elbow during his diving retrievals in the quarterfinal against Chen, a setback compounded by painful blisters on his feet. Without their first singles player – and one of the team's most reliable big-match performers – India's chances of reaching a second Thomas Cup final were significantly reduced against a French side built around the formidable trio of Popov brothers and the World No. 10.

That absence also thrust an even greater responsibility onto Ayush. Until then, Ayush had won all his matches in the tournament and emerged as one of India's breakout performers. But against Christo, the youngster ran into a different level of intensity and speed.

Afterwards, Ayush admitted that the Frenchman had "outclassed and outpaced" him, adding that ties like these against elite opponents were part of the learning curve.

Lanier's relentless power and pace eventually proved too much for Srikanth, though the former World No. 1 still produced flashes of the anticipation and touch that once made him a world-renowned attacking player. With India 0-2 down, the responsibility shifted to Prannoy.

Up against the higher-ranked Toma Junior, Prannoy fought doggedly, pushing through long rallies and physical strain in an attempt to keep India alive. But the Frenchman closed out the tie in straight games even before doubles could become a factor. Satwik and Chirag never got the opportunity to influence the contest.

The 0-3 scoreline ended India's campaign, but not the significance of its achievement. France may have gone on to make history with its first-ever Thomas Cup final, but India's bronze still carried enormous weight. This was a team seeded eighth, managing injuries, relying on an ageing core while simultaneously ushering in a new generation. Despite that, India finished on the podium in badminton's toughest team championship.

And perhaps that's what Satwik was trying to say all along.

THE GIST

- The Thomas Cup bronze proved that India was not reliant on just one golden generation of players
- If the stunning Thomas Cup triumph in Bangkok in 2022 altered the image of Indian badminton, the latest success was a worthy follow-up act
- This was a team seeded eighth, managing injuries, relying on an ageing core and simultaneously ushering in a new era

State government unveils its sixth promise 'Bhu Guarantee'

It includes a reduction in the percentage of the guidance value to be paid for conversion from B-Khata to A-Khata

The Hindu Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development in-charge D.K. Shivakumar unveiled the "sixth guarantee" – Bhu Guarantee – of the Congress government in Karnataka.

The major announcements made on May 13 included a reduction in the percentage of the guidance value that needs to be paid as a fee for conversion from B-Khata to A-Khata, regularisation of "illegal" buildings constructed on BDA lands before 2008, and notification of setback relaxations.

However, the guarantee repackages existing schemes with discounts on the fees, especially for those that did not meet the desired outcome. Incidentally, it comes close on the heels of discussions on holding the long-pending civic elections in Bengaluru this year.

Under the scheme for conversion of B-Khata into A-Khata within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits, which was introduced in November 2025, the government has now announced a discount of nearly 60%. This means citizens will now have to pay only 2% of the guidance value of the particular area.

The discounted rate will be available from May 16 for a period of 100 days, after which citizens will once again have to pay a 5% guidance value fee for conversion.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Energy Minister K.J. George (right), and Bangalore Development Authority chairman N.A. Haris, during a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

When the scheme was first introduced, Mr. Shivakumar had stated that 5% of the guidance value of the area would be collected as a fee and used for the development of the respective locality. However, in the last five months, a meagre 7,000 applications have been received, accounting for just 1% of the total estimated properties.

According to official data, Bengaluru has around 23 lakh properties, of which 16 lakh are A-Khata properties and seven lakh are B-Khata properties.

The primary reason for the poor response from beneficiaries is the high conversion cost, as 5% of the guidance value often translates into fees running into lakhs of rupees.

Regularisation scheme

In addition, for properties constructed on Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) land before 2008, the government plans to reduce the regularisation cost by 50%. For instance, if a property owner earlier had to pay 5% of the guidance value for regularisation, they can now pay just 2.5% and get the property regularised. Bengaluru has nearly one lakh such properties.

"In 2020, the BJP government introduced a law called '38D'. Only 570 people had submitted applications under the scheme. The law provided for payment of charges based on the guidance value–10% for plots measuring 200 to 600 sq ft, 25% for 600 to 900 sq ft, 40% for 1,200 to 2,400 sq ft, and 50% for 2,400 to 4,000 sq ft," Mr. Shivakumar said.

At the time, applicants were given six months to apply. However, hardly anyone came forward to pay the fee. According to Mr. Shivakumar, the charges were considered too high and the scheme failed to benefit people.

"Now, applicants will be given a total of three months from June 15 to submit applications. A One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme will also be implemented. The first 100 days will be provided for the submission of applications, the next 100 days for the scrutiny of applications, and thereafter time will be given for payment. The scheme will be concluded within a one-year timeframe, that is, by June 2027," he said.

Bengaluru has around 23 lakh properties, of which 16 lakh have A-Khata properties and seven lakh B-Khata

"If people fail to make use of the benefits under this scheme, legal action will have to be initiated. Already, BDA has taken possession of properties worth ₹2,000 crore," he warned.

Setback relaxation

Earlier this year, the Urban Development Department (UDD) had issued a draft notification proposing amendments to the Town Planning Act. The draft notification allowed regularisation of setback violations of up to 15%. Confirming the notification, Mr. Shivakumar said that the government would permit the 15% relaxation.

Defending the move, Mr. Shivakumar said that the law provides for relaxation of up to 50%, but the government has limited it to only 15%.

BDA to allot sites to land losers for S.K. Layout project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday revealed that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will be allotting sites to land losers for the Shivaram Karanth Layout (S.K. Layout) and selling flats built in Whitefield.

He said that as many as 3,052 landowners had given their land for the S.K. Layout and that there were several complications, including cases where multiple owners had sold their properties to others.

"With court permission, 18,000 sites are now being allotted to landowners. They may take possession of the sites from Friday. A software developed through the central e-governance system has been used for the allotment," he said.

"Special provision has been made for owners who had 1, 2 or more acres of land. For those who wanted a single large site, we had promised to accommodate them, but only 7 people applied for it. For one acre of land, a single site of 9,583 sq. ft. would be given. This arrangement facilitates high-rise construction," he explained. He announced that about 1,900 new flats have been built in Whitefield. "A 1-BHK flat of 760 sq. ft. is being offered at ₹6,686 per sq. ft. Applications will be accepted from May 15. A 3-BHK flat of 1,733 sq. ft. is being offered at ₹8,309 per sq. ft., totalling ₹1.44 crore," he said.

With court permission, 18,000 sites are now being allotted to landowners, says D.K. Shivakumar. FILE PHOTO

Speaking about infrastructure projects, he said that traffic congestion exists in Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Mumbai as well. "We have eased some pressure near Hebbal and are continuing to streamline further," he said.

"Work on constructing a short tunnel connecting Hebbal Junction to the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) will start soon. A three-lane cut-and-cover tunnel will be built, with a total of six lanes. The tunnel will be 2.2 km long. This project has been awarded to Rutvik Tunnels and must be completed within 18 months," he said. Near Mekhri Circle, a 1.7 km elevated corridor with four lanes will also be built. The foundation stone-laying ceremony for both projects will be held by the end of this month, he noted. He further reiterated projects such as Phase 1 of the Bengaluru Business Corridor, for which 80% of the land acquisition has already been completed, and the opening of the Major Arterial Road (MAR), passing through the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, spanning 10.77 km. The MAR, built at a cost of ₹631 crore, will be inaugurated within the next 15 days, he said.

On the occasion of Kempegowda Jayanti and the BDA completing 50 years, about 15 lakh saplings will be planted across Bengaluru under a programme titled "Green Bengaluru", he said. The event will be held on June 27. He further said that about 150 schemes have been planned, and all announcements will follow in the next 15 days.

These announcements coincide with the possibility of long-pending civic elections possibly taking place in the city this year. While the Karnataka State Election Commission had earlier stated that civic polls in Bengaluru would be held between June 14 and 24, it recently filed an application before the Supreme Court seeking an extension until September 30 to conduct the polls, following a request from officials in the State government.

Anti-terror drill

National Security Guard commandos rappel from a hovering helicopter and swiftly move into position during a counter-terrorism drill conducted alongside the Karnataka State Police at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

HC issues guidelines for issuing e-Khatas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court, in an effort to remove procedural bottlenecks in property registration following civil court decrees, has held that municipal authorities cannot refuse to issue e-Khatas – which are mandatory for registration – to decree holders or court commissioners on the grounds that the application was not made by the previous owner or judgment-debtor.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum issued a series of guidelines on issuing e-Khatas and the registration of documents by registering authorities to enforce court decrees, after noticing that the district registrar in Tumakuru had, in August 2025, refused to register a property in favour of decree-holder P. S. Ashok Kumar for want of an e-Khata, despite papers being presented by a court commissioner based on a civil court decree in his favour. Such situations, the court said, have repeatedly surfaced before it through several petitions, disclosing "a systemic incongruity, a grey area in the administrative framework wherein the executive machinery, instead of acting in furtherance of a binding judicial determination, operates in a manner that effectively renders the decree inexecutable."

HC norms on e-Khata, registrations

- Where an e-Khata is required for registration, the civil court may *suo motu* direct authorities to initiate the process solely to facilitate execution of the decree
- The competent authority shall not refuse an e-Khata on the ground that the application is not made by the original owner, and may issue it in the name of the decree-holder or the court commissioner for execution purposes
- If property arrears or dues exist, the authority shall quantify them and allow the decree-holder to remit the amount, without insisting on payment by the judgment-debtor
- Upon payment of dues by the decree-holder, the e-Khata shall be issued within two weeks
- The decree-holder, after paying tax dues, may recover the amount from the judgment-debtor through legal proceedings
- After issuance of e-Khata, the sub-registrar shall register the court commissioner's sale deed if it complies with the provisions of the Registration Act, 1908
- Registering authorities shall treat sale deeds executed by the court commissioner as those of the judgment-debtor and shall not insist on the personal presence or consent of the judgment-debtor
- All authorities shall act to aid enforcement of decrees and not create impediments in a manner that defeats lawful adjudication

Civil court powers

Pointing out that the civil courts are vested with ample powers to ensure that the decrees are translated into reality, including by appointing a court commissioner where the judgment-debtor/earlier owner fails to cooperate, the court noted the difficulty, however, arises at the stage of registration, where the insistence on e-Khata coupled with the reluctance of authorities to issue the same either in favour of the decree holder or the court commissioner creates a procedural deadlock.

In a large number of specific performance decrees, judgment-debtors deliberately avoid execution to frustrate the decree and evade securing the e-Khata, which is mandatory for registration, leaving decree holders remediless and reducing court decrees to paper, undermining the rule of law, the court pointed out.

Bridging grey area

Judicial intervention in the form of guidelines is essential to bridge this grey area, existing due to the absence of a clear administrative protocol, to ensure that decrees are effectively enforced, the court said while observing that local and registering authorities cannot adopt hyper-technical or pedantic approach to defeat the fruits of a decree.

24 runaway children allege abuse, forced labour at madrasa; FIR filed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The rescue of 24 runaway minors from a madrasa in Tumakuru has led to the registration of an FIR against the institution's management over allegations of torture, forced labour, and harassment of students.

Based on a complaint filed by Nagabhushan C., an official attached to the District Child Protection Unit and Child Helpline, Kengeri, the Tumakuru Rural Police registered a case on May 10 against the madrasa management. On April 19, 24 children escaped from a madrasa, identified as Jamia Arabia Hasaniya Trust, located in Tumakuru taluk. They were later rescued at the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station by Railway Protection Force personnel and volunteers.

During an interaction on April 23, the children alleged that they had fled the madrasa owing to physical assault, harassment, and ill-treatment by staff members.

They further alleged that they were being forced to work as labourers in the construction of a building on the madrasa premises.

Following directions from officials and members of the Child Welfare Committee, a formal complaint was lodged seeking legal action against the madrasa management for allegedly subjecting children to cruelty and engaging them in labour work. Students from Bihar – aged between nine and 17 – told the welfare committee that they were given worm-infested rice, forced to work as construction labourers inside the madrasa, and were beaten up if they demanded to see their parents.

Initially, a case was registered at the Bengaluru City Railway Police Station under Sections 75, 79, and 82 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Section 146 of BNS, and Sections 3, 3(A), 14 and 14(1) of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, and 2016 amendments.

As the alleged offences fall under the jurisdiction of the Tumakuru district,

Kannada film and television actor Dileep Raj passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada actor Dileep Raj passed away on Wednesday after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 47. Raj is survived by his wife, Srividya, and two children. After debuting with *Boyfriend* in 2005, Raj played his first prominent role in *Milana* (2009), starring Puneeth Rajkumar and Parvathy Thiruvothu. The movie was a blockbuster, enjoying a 500-day theatrical run.

Raj featured in romantic dramas such as *Love Guru* (2009) and *Gana Bajaana* (2010), both of which were known for their hit songs.

A stop-start film journey forced Raj to go back to television serials. Raj played the lead and produced *Hitler Kalyana*, from 2021 to 2024. *Paru* and *Vidya Vinayaka* are some of the other serials produced by Raj. He was also a voice artist. Raj, who also performed in theatre, grabbed attention as a character artiste in well-known movies such as *U-Turn* (2016), *Orchestra Mysuru* (2023), and *Nimma Vasthugalige Neeve Javaabdaararu* (2025). The actor was last seen in *Love Mocktail 3*.

Kannada actor Dileep Raj. DILEEPRAJ_OFFICIAL/INSTAGRAM

3 killed in separate road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three people lost their lives in separate road accidents reported in different parts of Bengaluru and nearby areas on Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

In the first incident, a speeding car allegedly rammed into a motorcycle near Kote Cross in Devanahalli around 9 p.m. The victim, identified as Shekar, 28, a resident of Neeleri village, died on the spot. He was employed at a private company. The Devanahalli traffic police have registered a case and have taken the driver into custody for further investigation.

As per the complaint filed by Vinay Kumar, 25, a relative of the deceased, Shekar had come to visit his wife at their house in Devanahalli on Tuesday and had left the residence at around 10.15 p.m. on his scooter.

At around 10.45 p.m., when the complainant called Shekar's mobile phone, a member of the public answered and informed him that Shekar had met with an accident near Devanahalli Kote Cross and had been shifted to the Government Hospital in Devanahalli by ambulance. The driver of the car, who was driving from the Chickballapur direction, is said to have jumped over a road bump before colliding with the scooter.

In another incident, Arun Kumar, 26, a native of Virajpet in Kodagu district, died after a speeding canter vehicle allegedly rammed into his motorcycle near the Biocon Metro Station on Hosur Road around 1.30 a.m.

Arun, who worked as a car driver, was residing with a friend at Ananthanagar in Hebbagodi. The police said he was returning home when the accident occurred. He died on the spot.

In the third incident, Ram Kishan, a retired serviceman and resident of Anekal, was killed after a heavy vehicle allegedly hit his scooter near Hebbagodi bus stand around 6.15 a.m. Ram Kishan was travelling towards Electronic City on his scooter when the speeding vehicle knocked him down, leaving him critically injured. He succumbed to injuries at the scene.

The Electronic City Traffic Police have registered separate cases and are investigating both incidents.

How new fossils, latest technology are tracing the origins of snakes

Scientists estimate that ancestors of the wildly diverse group of living snakes emerged around 160 million years ago, but they have not figured out what the first snakes were like; these mysterious, ancestral snakes should sit at the base of the snake family tree, but their fossils have not been found

Amber Dance

Slithering around: Starting about 125 million years ago, snakes used their flexible body plans to diversify, conquering regions that now make up six continents, plus the Indian and Pacific Oceans. KNOWABLE MAGAZINE

Back when dinosaurs stomped the earth, mammals scurried about in their shadows. Those furballs, hiding in underground burrows, provided a fresh niche for a novel reptile: the snake. Skinny snakes could squeeze into mammals' holes and gobble them up.

At least, that is how the dawn of snakes is imagined by Marc Tollis, an evolutionary biologist at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. No one knows for sure. Like the creatures, the snake fossil record is long and thin, leaving gaps in snaky history. Major questions, such as where they got their start and who their closest relatives are, remain unanswered.

Today, new fossils and modern techniques are updating the story of snakes. Starting about 125 million years ago, snakes used their flexible body plans to diversify like crazy, conquering regions that now make up six continents, plus the Indian and Pacific Oceans – and Mr. Tollis would not be surprised to find snake fossils in once-balmy Antarctica, either.

There are serpents slithering across the land, burrowing into the soil, swimming in the sea and gliding between trees, even catching rides on trains and, yes, planes. There are threadsnakes just a few inches long and thin as spaghetti, and pythons that exceed 20 feet. There are snakes that chase prey and snakes that lie in wait to ambush it, snakes that strangle their meals and others that immobilise their dinner with venom. Snakes that lay eggs, snakes that bear live young, snakes that reproduce without males.

It is an impressive smorgasbord of abilities for what is, essentially, a freaky offshoot on the lizard family tree. Serpents are basically predatory tubes, Mr. Tollis notes. They cannot walk or chew their food. These seem like seriously limiting factors.

"Despite that, snakes are some of the most successful animals," marvels Mr. Tollis, who co-authored an overview of early snake and lizard evolution in the 2025 *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*. "They definitely have superpowers that we would normally associate with the fantastic."

By sea, by land, or below?

There are more than 4,000 described living species of snakes, accounting for about one-third of the larger lizard group, and probably hundreds more awaiting official discovery, says Alex Pyron, an evolutionary biologist at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Scientists estimate that the ancestors of this wildly diverse group emerged around 160 million years ago, but they have not figured out what the first snakes were like – land snakes, sea snakes, underground snakes?

These mysterious, ancestral snakes should sit at the base of the snake family tree, but their fossils have not been found. The oldest snake fossils known come from a variety of environments, making it hard to determine which kind of habitat snakes wriggled out of, says Tiago Simões, a co-author on the *Annual Review* paper and an evolutionary biologist at Princeton University in New Jersey.

One longstanding hypothesis is that snakes got their start underground. The original idea was based, in part, on blind snakes that are the lowest branch on the family tree of living snakes. But blind snakes are quite specialised for the anthills and termite mounds they inhabit, says Catie Strong, a vertebrate palaeontologist and graduate student at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

They have weird, alien-looking skulls fit for their subterranean environment and insectivore diet. For example, Ms. Strong says, a "pronounced underbite" helps keep dirt out of their mouths. While training with vertebrate palaeontologist and evolutionary biologist Michael Caldwell at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, Ms. Strong concluded, as have others, that these hyperspecialised critters cannot correspond to the root of the snake family tree.

In the late 20th century, evidence suggesting a marine origin floated up. Scientists described snakes that lived nearly 100 million years ago in West Asia, when that land was underwater. Mr. Caldwell and colleagues also linked the snake clan to mosasaurs, extinct aquatic reptiles, raising the possibility that snakes emerged in the water. But favour for that hypothesis has sunk: There are other snakes that predate those aquatic snakes and were clearly terrestrial, says Mr. Simões.

Modern-day Patagonia has yielded a trove of additional snake fossils, such as *Najash rionegrina*, dated to about 95 million years ago, and *Dinilysia patagonica*, from about 80 million years ago, when that environment was desert-like. *Dinilysia* probably lived aboveground, but the situation with *Najash* is trickier, says Mr. Simões.

Najash has skull and spinal features that, to its discoverers, suggested it spent some time underground. But both of these Patagonia species were "big-bodied snakes," adds Mr. Caldwell, similar to modern-day pythons. Like pythons, they might have hid out underground, but hunted on the surface, he speculates.

Additional evidence for a mixed dry land/underground origin comes from predictions about early snakes' brains. Scientists used 3D X-ray imaging to analyse the braincase – the part of the skull protecting the brain – of nearly 60 snakes and lizards, plus a few snake fossils. From those inner contours, they could infer the brain's shape. The researchers identified burrower brain anatomy: Diggers usually possess, for example, a small, flattened, triangular cerebellum, a brain section involved in movement. When the researchers used their data to predict the ancestral snake brain shape, they wound up with some burrower-like features, including that little cerebellum, but other features inconsistent with underground living.

Bringing the evidence together, Ms. Strong thinks that snakes evolved on land, maybe a sandy environment like the one *Dinilysia* and *Najash* inhabited. This, she suspects, also set them up to navigate underground on occasion.

A better way to slither

Another major event in snake evolution was, of course, the shedding of their legs. This is not as innovative as it might seem; among lizard-kind, several long, skinny groups have kicked their legs to the curb. When crawling underground or moving through grass, limbs are literally "a drag," says Daniela Garcia Cobos, an evolutionary biologist and graduate student at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Snakes do seem to have been among the first lizards to master this streamlined shape.

Mr. Pyron estimates this change happened between 150 million and 125 million years ago, but scientists have not pinned down exactly when or where.

Heady changes

In any case, what distinguished snakes from all other legless lizards were the other changes they made, says Mr. Pyron. To investigate further innovations, Mr. Pyron and collaborators embarked on a massive reptile census, published in *Science* in 2024. They measured the skulls of thousands of snakes and lizards. They examined stomach contents of museum specimens and pored over written dietary records. They amassed data from 5,400 genes from more than 1,000 snake and lizard species.

When they lined up those features, snakes stood out. About 125 million years ago, the group underwent sudden, significant changes to their skulls, diets and spines, positioning them to diversify and spread. Snakes' biggest claim to evolutionary fame is their weirdly flexible craniums, made of bony pieces connected by soft tissue; Mr. Caldwell thinks this key alteration happened even before they gave up their legs. Snakes first changed up their braincase. In most lizards, this looks like a sandwich: bone on top, bone on the bottom, brain within and open on the sides. But in snakes, it is more like a wrap, a bony tube only open toward the face and spine. Protecting the brain that way meant snakes were free to let the rest of the skull's bones move about. And boy, did they.

Those skull changes enabled new diets with the evolution of the serpentine jaw. While jaw anatomy varies within the group, in many snakes, the lower and upper parts are connected by stretchy ligaments, enabling a wide gape. The two sides of the lower jaw can splay apart, further expanding the snake's maw. The palate at the top of the mouth has right and left parts that move independently to convey food throatwards. That is how a python can swallow a pig. Indeed, the *Science* team found that snakes, as a clan, can eat pretty much anything that moves. There are snakes that nosh on gooey slugs and armoured snails, slippery eels and even other serpents.

Around the same time, snakes grew longer, adding hundreds of vertebrae between their necks and nether regions. "Being elongate allows you to locomote more quickly and efficiently," says Mr. Caldwell. Extra belly flesh supplies more surface area to push along the ground or climb tree trunks. For aquatic snakes, increased length enables more efficient weaving back and forth.

In sum, these changes to body, head and diet meant the evolving serpents were flexible not just in form, but also in lifestyle. Snakes adapt rapidly to new environments, says Frank Burbrink, curator of herpetology at the American Museum of Natural History and a co-author of the *Annual Review* article. In other words, these evolutionary superstars were primed to make the most of any habitat they slithered into.

Making up for absent fossils

The fragmented skulls and body length that were so beneficial for snakes' spread create a headache for palaeontologists: Dead snakes go to pieces, making complete fossils scarce and leaving many questions unanswered. For example, researchers know serpents are related to groups containing iguanas and Komodo dragons, as well as possibly those mosasaurs, but it is not certain which are their closest cousins. Knowing that would help to predict what snake ancestors should look like, says says Susan E. Evans, a paleontologist at University College London .

When fossils falter, genetics can come to the rescue. Already, genetic analyses have forced a reshuffling of the lizard family tree; trees based on body shape alone turned out to be "totally wrong," says Mr. Pyron.

Genes have also illuminated how snake bodies build some of their special features. The lack of legs is linked to lost function in a limb-promoting sequence called *ZRS*.

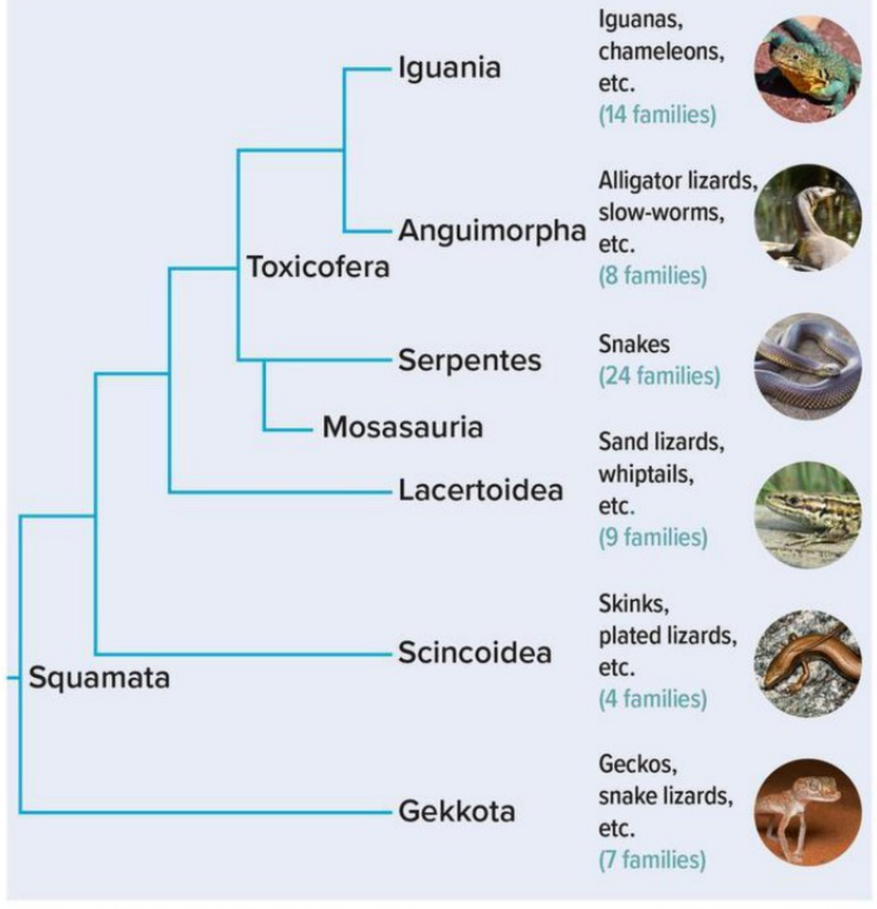
Mr. Burbrink, Mr. Pyron and Mr. Simões are now sequencing whole genomes of more than 100 snakes and lizards, which will double the number of high-quality genomes available. With that plus additional data on living and fossil reptiles, they expect to build better family trees and further investigate the genes behind a snake's sinuous shape.

Still, Ms. Evans says, scientists really need more fossils to fill in the twists and turns in the serpents' tale.

As palaeontologists keep digging, Mr. Burbrink counsels us to take a moment to marvel the next time we come across a garter snake or other modern wriggler: "You are looking at the culmination of more than 100 million years of evolution."

(Amber Dance is special contributor, Knowable Magazine. *This article is republished from* Knowable Magazine *with permission.)*

Evolutionary tree of lizards and snakes



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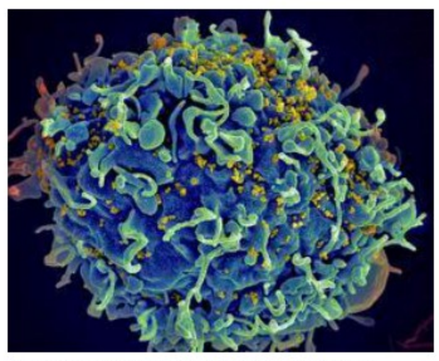

This colourised electron microscope image provided by the U.S. NIH shows a human T cell (blue) under attack by HIV (yellow). AP

Revving up immune cells might help fight HIV: study

Associated Press

Scientists are tweaking a powerful cancer therapy in hopes it could fight HIV instead, by supercharging patients' own immune cells.

On Tuesday, researchers said a single dose of those revved-up cells strongly suppressed HIV in two people – one for nearly a year and the other for nearly two years – without requiring their usual medicines.

Larger and longer studies are needed to prove if what's called CAR-T cell therapy might really offer long-lasting help for HIV, cautioned Dr Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco, who led the research.

"We find the fact that two people have had such a really sustained response provocative," he said. "There is a real need for a one-and-done, safe and scalable cure ... and this is one of the

Researchers have long hunted an elusive cure, pursuing such clues as a rare gene mutation that makes some people naturally resistant to HIV

strategies that we're pursuing." The data is being presented at a meeting of the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy in Boston.

There are nearly 40 million people living with HIV around the world. Today's medicines have turned the virus that causes AIDS from a fast killer into a manageable chronic disease, often keeping the virus at undetectable levels, but only if people can afford the drugs and stick with them. The virus hides out in reservoirs in the body and rebounds fast if people stop treatment.

Researchers have long hunted an elusive cure, pursuing such clues as a rare gene mutation that makes some people naturally resistant to HIV or how a handful of HIV patients who also had certain cancers were declared cured or in long-term remission after receiving a stem cell transplant, something too risky for most people.

CAR-T therapy involves taking immune soldiers called T cells out of a person's blood, genetically engineering them into "living drugs" and infusing them back into the patient. They're widely used to cure certain types of cancer and are being studied for other diseases.

For HIV, scientists at the nonprofit drug developer Caring Cross created CAR-T cells with dual features. They're programmed to better find and kill HIV-infected cells – and engineered with protection against infection by the very virus they're supposed to fight.

With that added armor, they should be able to reproduce enough to keep HIV in check, said Caring Cross executive director Boro Dropulic.

Deeks' early-stage experiment tested different dosing strategies in people who stopped their HIV medicine the day they received their CAR-T cells. There were no serious side effects. The first three recipients showed no response and resumed their usual medicines.

Six others received a small amount of chemotherapy to make space for the new T cells. Those two strong responders saw their HIV drop to undetectable levels, inching up only occasionally when the CAR-T cells presumably got to work again. A third patient had a temporary response and resumed regular HIV treatment.

Those three patients all had started their original HIV treatment soon after they'd been infected, Deeks said. That makes sense because people treated early tend to have less HIV hiding in the body and a healthier immune system.

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Work orders for first stretch of PRR-Package 1 set to be issued in June

This will be the first on-ground work to begin for PRR, delayed for more than two decades

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj

Work orders for the first stretch of the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR)-Package 1 between Tumakuru Road and Ballari Road are all set to be issued in June, and civil works are expected to start three months after that. This will be the first on-ground work to begin for PRR, delayed for over two decades.

Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd. (BBC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed to spearhead the PRR project, had split the PRR Phase 1 into multiple packages and tendered Package 1 in March 2026. "The technical bids were opened on May 6 and their scrutiny is ongoing. We will open the financial bids after May 20," said L.K. Atheeq, chairman, BBC Ltd.

The government has laid down a condition that work orders for these packages can be issued as and when BBC Ltd. achieves 80% land acquisition.

"Of the 665 acres needed for Package 1, we have taken possession of 523 acres, achieving over 78% of the target. Compensation is being disbursed for these lands now. Some lands are under litigation and in such cases, we will deposit the compensation in the court. We will cross 80% soon. Once the financial bid is finalised, we will issue work orders for this package in June to whoever bags the tender," Mr. Atheeq said.

Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd., a Special Purpose Vehicle, will spearhead the PRR project. FILE PHOTO

Peripheral Ring Road Phase 1

Package-wise land acquisition status for stretch between Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road

Package	Alignment	Land required (in acres)	Land acquired (in acres)
Package 1	Tumakuru Road to Ballari Road	665	523
Package 2	Ballari Road to Whitefield Junction	433	123
Package 3	Whitefield Junction to Electronics City	710	26

The tender is a Design, Build, Operate and Transfer model, which means the contractor has to design this stretch and prepare their own Detailed Project Report. This will likely take three months after the work orders are issued, following which civil works will begin on the ground.

The contractor will get three years to build the 23 km-long stretch of the road between Tumakuru Road and Ballari Road. It will begin from Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Madavara, and cut across Ballari Road next to Collins Aerospace Park at Venkatala. A metro station is coming up at this junction. This road is expected to ease traffic on International Airport Road and Tumakuru Road, particularly the notorious Hebbal junction.

Slow progress

Meanwhile, BBC Ltd. is finding it tough to convince farmers on two other stretches – Ballari Road to Whitefield Junction (Package 2) and Whitefield Junction to Electronics City (Package 3) – to give up their lands for the five-option compensation package being offered. In Package 3, of the 710 acres needed for the project, only 26 acres have been acquired till now.

While farmers have been demanding a cash compensation under the The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, BBC Ltd. has offered a five-option compensation package under the Bangalore Development Authority Act, 1976, including cash compensation, Transferable Development Rights, developed commercial plots, and cash plus developed land as a package.

Sources said that the State government has ruled out any revision in the compensation package. Meanwhile, the High Court of Karnataka, which has clubbed many petitions challenging land acquisition for PRR Phase 1, is expected to decide on these petitions soon.

"The arguments are drawing to a close and we expect a judgement by June or July. We hope this will give us some respite and provide momentum for land acquisition," said a senior official.

Four held for ₹7.5 lakh robbery in Chickballapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chickballapur police arrested four persons, including a cab driver, within three hours of a businessman being allegedly attacked with chilli powder and robbed of ₹7.5 lakh at knifepoint in Gauribidanur.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Monday in Vinayakanagar. The victim, Shivashankara Aradhya, stepped out of his residence carrying cash intended for starting a travel agency business.

The victim had arranged nearly ₹14 lakh by pledging and selling family jewellery to purchase vehicles for the proposed business venture. As Mr. Aradhya was leaving his house with part of the money, two unidentified men on a motorcycle allegedly intercepted him, threw chilli powder into his eyes, threatened him with a machete, and escaped with a bag containing ₹7.5 lakh.

A special investigation team was formed led by Police Superintendent Kushal Chowksey.

The police detained Yashwanth, a cab driver known to the victim and who had allegedly advised him to start the business. The police said Yashwanth confessed to masterminding the robbery along with his associates. The police arrested three more accused – Darshan, Bharath, and Vishakantamurthy from Bengaluru.

The police seized a car, a motorcycle, and the machete allegedly used in the crime.

2 Bangladeshi youth rescued from exploitation

BENGALURU: Two youths from Bangladesh, who allegedly escaped from their employer following harassment and exploitation, were rescued by a city-based NGO and handed over to the K.R. Puram police on Sunday. The duo, identified as Albir, 24, and Sakib, 25, confessed that they had entered Bengaluru illegally to work as rag pickers but were forced into illegal activities, including temple thefts. They were handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office, while the case has been transferred to the Hulimavu police.

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Dr A Duraisamy
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Prof Deepa Sethi
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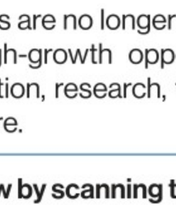

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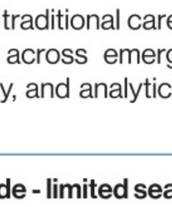

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount approved by Bangladesh for mega river project

2.8 in $ billion. Bangladesh approved on Wednesday a mega river project worth $2.8 billion that authorities hope would help the country address its persistent water crisis. The project highlights Dhaka's efforts to secure water supplies for its agriculture-dependent economy. AFP

People affected by disasters in Arunachal from January to May

32,800 A series of disasters, including storms, landslides, floods, forest fires and heavy rainfall incidents, have affected over 32,800 people across Arunachal Pradesh during the period between January and May 13 this year. PTI

Percentage increase in U.S. wholesale prices in April

6 in per cent. Wholesale prices in the U.S. rose sharply in April, pushed by a surge in energy costs related to the Iran war, registering their highest 12-month increase in more than three years. The Producer Price Index rose 6.0% for the 12 months ending in April, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) said. AFP

Percentage increase in Pakistan's external debts in FY2025-26

3.60 in per cent. Pakistan's external debts have risen by 3.6% to reach Pakistani rupees (PKR) 22,959 billion in FY 2025-26, according to a report. The State Bank of Pakistan released the statistics, revealing that the total debt has surpassed PKR 80 trillion rupees. PTI

Financial assistance received by Delhi RWAs and NGOs

13.36 in ₹ crore. The Delhi government released over ₹13 crore in 2025-26 for maintenance of 1,643 parks through RWAs and NGOs, marking the highest financial assistance since 2008-09, according to official data. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why did NTA's 'Zero Error' policy fail?

Why has NEET landed in controversy again? How has NEET faced repeated paper leak allegations? Why are paper leak concerns persisting despite NTA's safeguards? What reforms were proposed after the 2024 row? Can NEET shift to a computer-based format?

EXPLAINER

Maitri Porecha
Srinidhi Madurai K.

The story so far:

Nine days after nearly 22 lakh medical aspirants wrote the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), which paves the way for admission to medical colleges, they were in for a rude shock. On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) stated that the exam had been 'compromised,' and that there would be a re-test.

The decision has created a furore among students across the country, with the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) moving the Supreme Court with a plea to either replace NTA or conduct major restructuring reforms.

Nearly 22 lakh medical aspirants wrote the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test. K.V.S. GIRI

What controversies has NEET faced over the years?

The decision to conduct re-examination for nearly 22 lakh students is unprecedented in NEET's history, but concerns over paper leaks are not new. In 2024, the declaration of the NEET-UG results coincided with the announcement of national election results. For the first time, 67 out of the top 100 scorers received full marks. In comparison, only two students achieved full marks in 2023, while none did so in 2022. A high concentration of students achieving full marks led to massive rank inflation, with multiple aspirants who had scored high marks competing for a single seat in reputed medical colleges.

In 2024, 13 lakh students qualified and were competing for approximately 1.1 lakh MBBS seats across government and private medical colleges. Allegations of a paper leak later surfaced, with investigations revealing that 155 students had allegedly benefited from leaked question papers. Students had then demanded a re-examination, but their request fell on deaf ears.

Why has NTA's 'Zero Error' promise fallen short?

With repeated cases of paper leaks surfacing year after year, the NTA appears not to have learnt from its chequered past. The overhaul of NTA merely remained lip service. After the 2024 debacle, IAS officer Subodh Kumar Singh, then Director General of the NTA, was removed from the post and transferred to the Ministry of Steel as Additional Secretary. He is currently serving as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

Following his transfer, the NTA remained without a full-time chief for over a year, with retired 1985-batch IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola holding 'additional interim charge'. In March this year, former IndiaAI Mission CEO Abhishek Singh took charge of NTA and declared that there would be a 'Zero Error, Zero Tolerance' policy.

After the NEET-UG 2026 examination was conducted on May 3, the NTA underscored on social media the "smooth manner" in which the exam had been held across 5,432 centres, with 22.79 lakh candidates appearing. It stated that more than two lakh personnel were involved in conducting the examination.

The agency also claimed that there was end-to-end secure handling of confidential materials under sealed protocols, GPS-enabled vehicles with police escorts for the movement of examination material, CCTV surveillance at all examination centres (up to 1,50,000), with feeds linked to centralised control rooms, mandatory frisking through high-sensitivity metal detectors before entry, with strengthened manpower and equipment at every centre, Aadhaar-based biometric authentication to prevent impersonation and real-time monitoring through centralised control systems.

Mr. Abhishek Singh told *The Hindu* that the NTA had blocked 120 Telegram channels for circulating fake question papers and rumours, aimed at defrauding candidates.

Despite these measures, investigations by the Rajasthan Police revealed that a "guess paper" containing 120 out of 410 questions from the final examination had allegedly been circulating for nearly a month before the exam, a massive oversight by the NTA.

What did the Radhakrishnan panel recommend?

Following the NEET-UG 2024 controversy, the Ministry of Education formed a high-level committee headed by former ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan. However, the committee's recommendations were not followed in letter and spirit by either the NTA or the Ministry.

The report, submitted in October 2024, highlighted the pen-and-paper testing (PPT) model as 'a major security risk.' It recommended a transition to Computer-Based Testing (CBT) format, similar to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main, which is also conducted by NTA.

The committee also recommended Computer-assisted Secure PPT, where encrypted papers are delivered digitally to exam centres and printed locally just before the test. NTA has made no claim of implementing it. Instead, it relied on GPS vehicles and police escorts.

Mr. Abhishek Singh said that the NTA has the capacity to conduct CBT tests for only about 1.5 lakh students in a day. He added that shifting NEET to CBT mode is a 'high-level ministry call' involving both the Ministries of Health and Education.

In 2024, the NTA floated a tender to increase its capacity of computer labs, but the process could not be finalised. In 2026, the NTA has around 552 CBT centres, which are primarily used for JEE and CUET examinations. Since the Radhakrishnan Committee report came out in 2024, the NTA has not been able to augment its infrastructure to add more centres.

Multiple proposals to administer NEET-UG exams online were sent to the Ministry of Education, but in vain, officials at the NTA told *The Hindu*. "Talks for administering the NEET-UG in CBT mode have been ongoing for at least five years now. The recent paper leak fiasco should serve as an eye-opener to change the format of the exams," an official said.

THE GIST

- The NTA announced a re-test for nearly 22 lakh NEET aspirants after the exam was found to be "compromised", triggering outrage and fresh concerns over paper leaks.
- Despite "Zero Error, Zero Tolerance" claims and multiple security measures, a "guess paper" containing 120 of 410 questions allegedly circulated before the exam, renewing calls for reforms and a shift to computer-based testing.

What has the IMD announced ahead of this year's monsoon?

Why are the 15 States in the monsoon core zone the first to receive block-level forecasts?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday unveiled a new forecast system that, for the first time, will generate block-level forecasts of the monsoon's arrival. The system covers 15 States and one Union Territory, taking in 3,196 blocks – roughly half of India's 7,200-odd blocks. Until now, monsoon onset estimates have been available at best at the State or district scale.

Why does this granularity matter?

The conventional district-scale forecast obscures a basic feature of the Indian monsoon: its patchiness. The arrival dates familiar to most people – around June 10 for Mumbai, June 29 for Delhi – describe the monsoon reaching a city or a district boundary. But within the same district, several blocks and villages can remain rainless even after the monsoon has officially "arrived." For a farmer deciding when to sow, knowing that the monsoon has reached the district headquarters is of limited use if her own block is still dry. Hyper-local forecasts have been a long-standing aim of the IMD precisely to close this gap and help farmers time their sowing.

How does the new system work?

At its core are two forecasting models whose outputs are "blended" to sharpen accuracy. From the date of the monsoon's onset over Kerala, the system draws on AI-based analysis, the IMD's trove of nearly a century of meteorological data, and global weather models to project the monsoon's itinerary at a much finer scale than before.

The blending framework was developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, a Pune-based research institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It issues probabilistic forecasts for the next four weeks.

Why these particular 15 States?

The States covered are part of what meteorologists call the monsoon core zone. As M. Ravichandran, Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences, put it at a press briefing, these are "the regions that are largely rainfed and are most sensitive to southwest monsoon dynamics." They are also the regions where forecast errors translate most directly into crop losses. The ambition is eventually to extend block-level forecasts across all of India, but Mr. Ravichandran said this would require a denser network of observational data than is currently available in many States.

How well will it work in its first season?

The system has cleared two trial runs, but this year will be a stiff test. The IMD and global models are expecting "below normal" rainfall from July onwards, in the light of a developing El Niño – a pattern in the Pacific Ocean that has frequently coincided with weak monsoon rains in India. Forecasting a weak, erratic monsoon at block resolution can be harder than forecasting a robust one.

What is the separate announcement about Uttar Pradesh?

The IMD also launched a 10-day monsoon forecast model specifically for Uttar Pradesh at a resolution of 1 km – meaning the model resolves weather features down to that scale. This was possible because of Uttar Pradesh's unusually extensive network of automatic weather stations, whose observations allowed a weather model called Mithuna, which natively runs at 12.5 km, to be "downscaled" to 1 km. Mr. Ravichandran said other States were being encouraged to share their station data with the IMD so that similarly high-resolution forecasts could be produced for them.

What is the broader picture?

Two trends are converging. One is a push, driven by the agriculture ministry, to make forecasts agriculturally actionable rather than merely meteorologically accurate. The other is the IMD's increasing willingness to combine traditional physics-based models with AI and to lean on State-level observational networks where they exist. Block-level forecasting is the first concrete product of that combination – and the 2026 monsoon, El Niño and all, will be its proving ground.

THE GIST

- The IMD has launched a new block-level monsoon forecast system using AI-based analysis, meteorological data and global weather models to provide hyper-local forecasts for farmers in the monsoon core zone.
- The 2026 monsoon will test the new blended forecasting framework as India faces the possibility of below-normal and erratic rainfall linked to a developing El Niño.

Improved tech, bus hubs: City officials float fixes to ease ORR traffic woes

The upgraded app will provide details such as bus arrival time as well as number of seats available

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to encourage more commuters on Outer Ring Road (ORR) to switch to public transport, BMTC will soon introduce its upgraded app that will provide precise details such as the exact arrival time of the buses and the number of seats available in them.

Sivakumar B., managing director of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), revealed this during a meeting convened by the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, with other officials, ORR Companies Association (ORRCA) and representatives of IT companies and Tech parks on ORR to discuss sustainable measures for traffic decongestion along the corridor.

Traffic snarls on the stretch are expected to worsen once the work on the ₹368 crore project starts, as the carrying capacity of the road would further reduce. FILE PHOTO

Around 1,000 buses

According to Mr. Sivakumar, around 1,000 buses ply on the stretch between K.R. Puram and Silk Board.

Noting that the stretch is a high-potential route where the utilisation has remained relatively low, he proposed multiple options, such as the improved app that could be used by companies and employees to switch to public transport and improve the situation in the area.

"The BMTC app is currently not very precise. We are coming out with an upgraded version in a few days, which will tell you in how many minutes the bus will reach your location and also how crowded the bus is. The beta version is being tested now. By around June 15, it will be ready," he said.

He also said that if space could be provided, the department was open to lodging its buses at ORR, making it an origin and destination point.

"We can bring dedicated services on particular routes, provided we are assured with a certain number of people," he said, further adding that the department will also be offering cards at much more discounted rates to companies that can onboard their staff to BMTC buses.

City police commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh expressed willingness to conduct local surveys at the earliest if there was a need for more feeder services or readjusting the timings of the services. He also offered tailored provisions for organisations.

"If institutions can give us the number of people who require shuttle services towards metro or bus stand or even to any other dedicated place such as an apartment where 30 people are commuting from, we are ready to provide it," he said.

With regards to the planned white-topping of the 17-km stretch, R.K. Misra, independent director at B-SMILE, said that the tender will be awarded within a month and the works will start by the time the monsoon sets in.

Traffic snarls on the stretch are expected to worsen once the work on the ₹368 crore project starts, as the carrying capacity of the road would further reduce.

Justifying this, Mr. Misra said that the intent is to finish Metro and white-topping works simultaneously to ensure that all the infrastructure is in place together. Acknowledging that until then it would raise challenges, he requested cooperation from the companies.

"All the companies, please be prepared for major infrastructure work on this road. But we are getting very large pavers, and we are planning to do 500 to 600 meters every day," he assured.

Govt. submits proposal to set up five medical colleges in State

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

There are 72 medical colleges across the State; a total of 13,945 UG and about 7,700 PG medical seats were available for the year 2025-26

The State government has submitted a proposal to the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the establishment of five new medical colleges across the State, including three government colleges.

Proposals have also been submitted for the establishment of Ramanagara Institute of Medical Sciences in Ramanagara, Kanakapura Institute of Medical Sciences in Kanakapura of Bengaluru South, and Bagalkot Institute of Medical Science in Bagalkot district.

In addition, a request has been submitted for the establishment of private colleges, namely Karnataka Reddy Jana Sangha Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Bengaluru, and Alva's Medical College in Moodbidri of Dakshina Kannada district. It has been requested to sanction 100 intakes each for all these colleges. Incidentally, the NMC has been rejecting the proposal to establish new government medical colleges in Ramanagara and Kanakapura for the last three years owing to the lack of necessary infrastructure. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil had held a meeting with officials of the Medical Education department and instructed them to make necessary preparations for the establishment of the new colleges in Ramanagara and Kanakapura and submit a request to the NMC. The request had been rejected in 2025-26.

The State government decided to construct a medical college and hospital in Kanakapura at a cost of about ₹550 crore and gave administrative approval in October 2025. A foundation stone-laying ceremony will be held on Thursday. However, the works to build the medical college, proposed to be established on the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) campus in Ramanagara, is only 50% complete. As a result, the government has decided to make the medical college operational using the district hospital.

Meanwhile, sources in the Medical Education Department said that the necessary arrangements, including the building to house the Bagalkot Medical College, have been completed. "All preparations have been completed to establish the medical college in Bagalkot. Steps have been taken to do the same using the taluk hospital in Kanakapura and the district hospital in Ramanagara. The internal reservation issues have been resolved and the recruitment process for the necessary staff is under way. The recruitment process will be completed soon," said B.L. Sujatha Rathod, director, Directorate of Medical Education.

The Medical Education Department also submitted a proposal to the NMC for the enhancement of 2,623 medical seats in government and private medical colleges, including 1,250 undergraduate (UG-MBBS) and 1,373 postgraduate (PG-MD/MS) medical seats, for the year 2026-27. There are 72 medical colleges across the State, and 13,945 UG and about 7,700 PG medical seats were available for the year 2025-26.

Students at the postgraduate graduation ceremony at St. John's Medical College, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

163 awarded degrees at St. John's Medical College ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 163 students received postgraduate and super-speciality degrees at the PG Graduation Ceremony 2026 of St. John's Medical College held on Wednesday.

As many as 24 graduates secured State and National University ranks this year. Among speciality postgraduate students, the overall pass percentage was 94%, with 11 students securing ranks among the top 10 in the university and winning three gold medals.

Among super-speciality and DNB super-speciality students, the pass percentage was 100%, with 13 students securing university and national ranks along with five gold medals.

While Udata Pranavi (Family Medicine), Honey Mol (Pathology) and Aneeta Shaji (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) secured the first rank and gold medals at the State university level, Ruby Aleyamma Roy (Family Medicine) and Swathi N. (Transfusion Medicine) secured the second rank. Pragnya Sood (Community Medicine) secured the fifth rank.

In the DM and MCh courses, Sanjan Rai K. (Endocrinology), Hrudya (Gastroenterology), Chinthana L. (Neonatology) and Swetha C. Nair (Pulmonary Medicine) secured first rank and gold medals. Chaitanya H. Balakrishna (Haematology) won the DNB National Gold Medal.

Uday George Zachariah, Associate Director of Christian Medical College and an alumnus of the 1990 batch of St. John's Medical College, who addressed the graduates, urged young doctors to serve society with compassion and commitment. Fr. Jesudoss Rajamanickam, director of St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, and other dignitaries were present.

City records 93.19 pass percentage in CBSE class 12 examinations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru recorded a pass percentage of 93.19 in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) class 12 examinations, securing the third position among regions in the results announced by the CBSE on Wednesday. The city ranked behind Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai.

A total of 22,459 students from Bengaluru registered for the examinations this year. Of these, 22,386 students appeared for the examination and 20,861 cleared it.

The board reiterated that in line with its earlier decision to discourage unhealthy competition among students, it has not released any merit list and will not award first, second, or third divisions. Merit certificates will be issued to the top 0.1% of students who secured the highest marks in each subject, which will be made available to students on DigiLocker.

5,000 yoga practitioners to take part in State-level Yoga Day event in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of a mass yoga session organised by the Ministry of AYUSH on International Day of Yoga in 2025.

Around 5,000 yoga practitioners are expected to participate in a mass yoga demonstration in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on June 21 as part of the State-level celebrations for the 12th International Day of Yoga, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Wednesday.

Addressing pressperson after releasing yoga posters and postcards, Mr. Rao said the event would be organised in line with guidelines issued by the Ministry of AYUSH under this year's theme, "Yoga for Health, Knowledge and Global Peace."

The State-level programme will be held from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. with participation from AYUSH colleges, yoga institutions and various organisations.

The 45-minute Common Yoga Protocol session which has been prescribed by the Union government will be observed simultaneously across the State from 7 a.m. to 7.45 a.m.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot is expected to inaugurate the programme. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Ministers, legislators, senior officials and yoga gurus are also expected to attend. Efforts are also being made to invite celebrities and public figures.

The government was organising awareness programmes at district, taluk and village levels to promote yoga and holistic wellbeing. Several themed programmes are also planned in Bengaluru and Mysuru. Special events such as "Vijnana Yoga" at IISc Bengaluru, "Carcino Yoga" at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology and "Cardio Yoga" at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Mysuru are planned in the run-up to Yoga Day. The Government Ayurveda Research Centre, Mysuru will organise national-level social media competitions and yoga-related activities in schools. More than one lakh people and 25,000 students are expected to participate.

Nearly 25 lakh people across Karnataka are expected to take part in Yoga Day events on June 21.

NIMHANS doctors say 'every second counts' in stroke treatment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Doctors from NIMHANS on Wednesday stressed the importance of early stroke recognition and timely treatment as part of World Thrombectomy Day observed globally on May 15.

A view of NIMHANS

According to a release from NIMHANS, this year's theme, "Every second counts, on the field and in the brain," highlights the urgency of stroke treatment and the need for immediate medical intervention to prevent disability and death. Doctors pointed out that stroke cases are increasingly being reported among younger adults due to hypertension, diabetes, smoking, stress, obesity and sedentary lifestyles. They noted that delays in treatment can result in paralysis, speech impairment, memory loss or even death.

NIMHANS said advanced stroke care including emergency thrombolysis, thrombectomy procedures, stroke ICU services and rehabilitation are being provided at the institute. Mechanical thrombectomy is a procedure in which doctors remove a blood clot blocking blood flow to the brain using a catheter inserted through a blood vessel. Doctors said the treatment significantly improves recovery chances if performed early, ideally within six hours of stroke onset.

The institute also highlighted the "Be fast" warning signs of stroke – balance issues, eye problems, facial drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty and timely action to reach a hospital.

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Umashankar S/o Vijaya Kumar R/at No.162, Shashoo Sadhana, 7th A Cross, 4th Main, Balaji Layout, Vajarahalli, Kanakapura Road, Thalaghattapura Post, Bengaluru - 560109 do hereby solemnly state that **UMASHANKAR** and **UMASHANKARA V,** both these names refers to same person that is me only. I further state that I will continue as **UMASHANKAR** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 13.05.2026 sworn to Notary.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXV ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH – 36)
O.S No. 8720 OF 2024

BETWEEN:
M/s. CANARA BANK
Shoolay Branch,
At No. 87/8, St Patrick Church, Complex, Residency Road, Shoolay, Bangalore - 560 025
Rep by its Senior Manager
Mr. Pillala Shanmukha Santhosh
S/o Pillala Shiv Apparao Aged About 33 Years

....PLAINTIFF

And
SRI. SIDDAGANGAPPA,
....DEFENDANT

To, SRI. SIDDAGANGAPPA
S/o Siddappa, Aged about _ years, Residing at No. 1013/2,
Near Mohan Nursing Home Street, Natesh Building, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore 560109
Also at :Siddaragallu Post, Dodderi Hobli, Madhugiri, Sidadaragal, Tumkur, Karnataka-572 112

FORM NO.1-A
SUMMONS/NOTICE FOR SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT IN A NEWS PAPER

Whereas the Plaintiff bank above named has filed the above suit under Section 26 read with Order VII Rule 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 seeking a direction to the Defendant to pay to the Plaintiff a sum of **Rs.12,44,514/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Forty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Fourteen Only)** along with interest at the rate of **8.90% and 2%** penal interest from the date of suit till its actual realization, for costs of the proceedings and consequential reliefs.

you are hereby summoned to appear before This Court in person or through pleader On **19.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M** to answer to the same failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte, holding you liable for all costs

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this **21 Day Of April 2026.**

By the Order of the Court
Sd/- The Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bangalore.

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
M/S. SAMYOG LAW
No.3, Embassy Icon, 4th Floor, Vasanth Nagar, Infantry Road, Bengaluru 560 001

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. GANGADHARAN.R,** S/o. Sri. Late. S. Ramachandraiah, residing at No. 4, 6th Cross, Mattikere, Bengaluru, (Aadhar No. Xxxx xxxx 9173) and **Sri. VINOD KUMAR.M,** S/o. Sri. G. Manoharan, residing at No. 74, First Floor, Tambuchetty Road, Cox town. Bengaluru, (AADHAR No: xxxx xxxx 5396).

Any person / banking institutions/company, etc., has got any sort of legal right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said sale transaction, shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within **7 days** from this day, with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE-PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing vacant site **No. 124,** formed out of Sy No. 85 & 86, situated in **5th stage, Banashankari, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru,** presently under the jurisdiction of GBA, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Ward No. 184, Uttarahalli, having Property No. 124/124 and **E PID No. 5464973726** and measuring East to West **12.2 mtrs (40 feet)** and North to South **9.14 mtrs (30 feet)** and in all measuring **111.5 Sq.mtrs (1200 Sq.feet)** And bounded on

East by : Road. West by : Site No. 133. North by : Site No. 123. South by : Site No. 125.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
No. 207, Ground Floor,
26th Cross, Behind BWSSB Office,
Uttarahalli- Kengeri Main Road
Poorna Prajna Nagar, Bengaluru-560061.
Ph No. 93430 94442, 98459 31901

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that, my client **Sri. RAJASHEKARA. M, S/o. Muniyallappa. V.** No.32/2B, Kankapura Main Road, Yalachenhalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore 560062 has lost a Registered original **GIFT DEED vide Document No.5546/2012-13, dt:10-09-2012** registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore executed by his mother Smt. Lakshmamma to her grand son Akshay. R, S/o. Sri. Rajashekara. M. in respect of an immovable **Property bearing No.32/2B,** situated at **Yelechenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hebli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently with in the jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West: 44.5 feet and North to South: 86.0 Feet, totally measuring 3827 Square Feet, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Muninanjappa and Pullappa's Property, West by:Item No.2 Allotted to Smt. Lakshmamma in Schedule 'A', North by:25 Feet Road and South by: Yellamma's Property and in this regards has lodged a Police Complaint to the Karnataka State Police (U/s 155 Cr.PC) **Lost Article Report Serial No.21794275 Police Unit : Bangalore City, Lost Article Report No. 21794275/2026,** dt:10-05-2026. Hence, if anybody finds the said Documents please inform/return to the below address **within 10 days.**

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road,
BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 14-05-2026

Ministry of Culture Government of India
VISVESVARAYA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(National Council of Science Museums)
Kasturba Road, Bengaluru-560 001

ADVERTISEMENT No. 01/2026

Applications are invited from eligible candidates having teaching / research / industry background for engagement as **Junior Mentor at Innovation Hub of Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bengaluru through a Walk-in Aptitude Test / Interview on 26.05.2026 at 10.00 a.m. with all original testimonials,** on a monthly consolidated remuneration **of Rs. 37,000/- for a period one year.** Further extendable on mutually agreed terms subject to satisfactory performance. For eligibility criteria and other details, please refer to our website: **www.vismuseum.gov.in.** The Director, VITM reserves the right to cancel the engagement process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/Tr(O)Z/Mys/SEE(O)/AEE–3/2026-27/1019&1020 Date:12.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works **on Partial Turn Key (PTK) basis.**

1. Augmentation of 2x12.5MVA Power Transformers by 2x20MVA Power Transformers at 66/11kV Hanuru sub-station, Hanuru Taluk, Chamarajanagara District**. Call-4,** Roster No: **61,** Category: **Others.**

2. Augmentation of 2x12.5MVA Power Transformers by 2x20MVA Power Transformers at 66/11kV Yalanduru sub-station, Yalanduru Taluk, Chamarajanagara District. **Call-4.** Roster No: **37,** Category: **CAT-II(A).**

3. Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11 kV Transformer by 1x12.5MVA, 66/11 kV Transformer at 66/11kV Panyadahundi sub-station, Chamarajanagara Taluk and District. **Call-4,** Roster No: **38,** Category: **OTHERS.**

4. Augmentation of 2x12.5MVA Power Transformers by 2x20MVA Power Transformers at 66/11kV Hangala sub-station, Gundulupete Taluk, Chamarajanagara District. **Call-3,** Roster No: **42,** Category: **OTHERS.**

5. Replacement of 2x12.5MVA Power Transformers by 2x20MVA Power Transformers at 66/11kV Chandakawadi sub-station, Chamarajanagara Taluk and District. **Call-3,** Roster No: **52,** Category: **OTHERS.**

All the above works including supply of all matching materials/ equipment(except 66/11kV Power Transformer and 11kV switchgear) and erection & including civil works of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning.

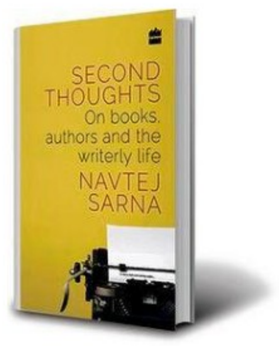
6. Bid Enquiry No: **CEE/KPTCL/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/873 dtd: 18.02.2026** for Providing 1no. of additional 11kV MCVCB breaker for bifurcation of overloaded feeder at 220/66/11kV Receiving station, Madhuvanahalli coming under Chamrajanagara Operations division, Mysuru Zone On Percentage Rate tendering basis. **Call-2.**

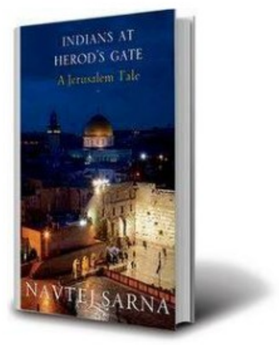
The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website:**https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **15.05.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

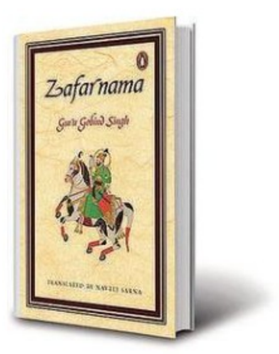
Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.,)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Navtej Sarna. FILE PHOTO







Navtej Sarna and the craft of turning history into story

The diplomat-writer, who recently won the Sahitya Akademi Award, has authored a dozen books marked by meticulous research, careful cross-checks, and a smooth narrative style

Ziya Us Salam

Navtej Sarna's *Second Thoughts: On Books, Authors and the Writerly Life* (2015) is replete with nuggets, as the writer-diplomat knits together seemingly disparate anecdotes to open a window into the world of writers. Among the writers he features is the redoubtable Khushwant Singh. Known for his love of a drink, Singh was also a deeply disciplined writer who penned at least three or four pages every day. "It is work, my writing that keeps me going. Writing is a solitary profession," he says in conversation with Sarna.

Among the many memorable moments Sarna recounts is Singh's recollection of the poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz: "Faiz was two years my senior in Lahore, at Government College. I met him later when I went to Pakistan. I went for breakfast with him and he was drinking whisky. Then I came back for lunch and he was drinking whisky. But he was never drunk." And then there was the poet Ahmed Faraz, who, according to Singh, "when he came to my room to have some whisky, dipped his cigarette in his drink and said that this way he can enjoy both together!"

Unlike Singh, known for his irreverence, E.M. Forster waxes eloquent on the good old *paan*, "the heart-shaped leaves that yearn towards the sun." The *paan*, Forster observed, is a "nucleus for hospitality, and much furtive intercourse takes place under its little shield".

The stories, though entirely different, are linked together like a train compartment. Sarna pens little stories and interviews which most others would not dip their fingers into.

Drawing from history

That is typical Sarna. Many summers ago, he wrote *Indians at Herod's Gate* (2014). He wandered through Old Jerusalem to write the unique story of the centuries-old Indian connection to the ancient city. The subject was both demanding and uplifting. With finesse, Sarna related the story of Sheikh Nazir Ansari, a police inspector's son from Saharanpur who went on to revive the Indian hospice in Jerusalem; this is the place where the 13th-century mystic and preacher Baba Farid had spent 40 days in prayer. How did Baba Farid reach Jerusalem, a place held sacred by Muslims, Jews, and Christians? Sarna explains, "At 16, under the tutelage of Bakhtiar Kaki, who advised him to discover the world and meet mystics, Baba Farid went to Baghdad, Mecca and Medina, before reaching Jerusalem."

Indians at Herod's Gate remains not only one of Sarna's best books - he has authored around a dozen - but probably the best one in capturing the challenges of diversity in a land steeped in history.

Much like *Indians at Herod's Gate*, Sarna's *Crimson Spring* (2022) is also based on history: the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He is reported to have evinced a wish to write about the massacre, the Indian soldiers who fought in World War I, and the revolutionaries who died in the quest for freedom. He fulfilled his wish with *Crimson Spring*, a compelling novel that brings all these themes together. Sarna weaves in both well-known and lesser-known strands of history. Writing about the night of the slaughter, he says, "The sun went down in an ocean of blood and the night that enveloped Jallianwala Bagh was death itself, visiting each shadow, teasing out and trapping each escaping life. The stray dogs, too, were soon out, sniffing blood and then warm, unresisting flesh." It is this book that won him the 2025 Sahitya Akademi Award for Literature (English), announced in March this year.

This ability to weave in facts in a seamless narrative first came to the fore in 2003, when he wrote *The Book of Nanak*. In it, he managed to appeal to readers who were not necessarily followers of Guru Nanak, while remaining faithful to the words and values of the founder of Sikhism.

To this day, the book is talked about, much like *The Exile* (2008), a poignant novel based on the life of Maharaja Duleep Singh, the exiled last Maharaja of Punjab. Singh, a prince, was forced into exile by the British. He tried to fight back to reclaim his empire and remains a tragic figure in history. Once again, moving between historical fact and the freedom granted by fiction, Sarna keeps the reader hooked. *The Exile* has enriched many a home.

The power of brevity

Another notable work of Sarna's is *Zafarnama: Guru Gobind Singh* (2011). Sarna translated the *Zafarnama*, which contains 111 stanzas and messages sent by the tenth Sikh Guru to the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb. Without getting mired in historical detail, he conveys the conflicts of the time in language marked by striking brevity.

This ability to say so much in so few words, to weave fact with fiction, is the result of years of silent and sustained labour for Sarna, a career diplomat who had to divide his time between professional commitments and a personal calling.

His craft clearly rests on meticulous research, painstaking cross-checks, and a smooth narrative style. But beyond technique lies an honesty to his subject and his craft, which are what consistently set him apart.

That sensibility is evident across his work. In *We Were Not Lovers Like That* (2016), for instance, he brings alive a human story rich in foibles. The protagonist is no hero in the conventional sense, but an ordinary man marked by human frailty, and yet quietly distinct. Sarna's command over detail and narrative holds the reader with rare luminosity. Love, loss and longing: the book had it all. When it first appeared, readers could scarcely wait for his next. He has kept that anticipation alive year after year, as seen in the response to his latest, *A Flag to Live and Die For* (2026).

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Recently, there has been news of a hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship. Here is a quiz on the virus and other viruses that cause diseases in humans

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Hantaviruses are naturally found primarily in which group of mammals?

QUESTION 2
Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by ____ virus, which belongs to the genus Orthopoxvirus. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
This is a virus belonging to Reovirales, an order of segmented, non-enveloped, double-stranded RNA viruses. It is an arbovirus, being primarily transmitted to humans from the bite of infected mosquitoes of the genus Culex. Which is it?

QUESTION 4
This virus causes a type of viral hemorrhagic fever. It is endemic in West African countries, especially Sierra Leone, the Republic of Guinea, Nigeria, and Liberia. Which is it?

QUESTION 5
This is the main cause of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) in East Asia. It is transmitted by the striped field mouse. Name the virus.

Visual Question:
Identify the infection caused by this virus (from the image). What is the name of the cancer that may be an eventual result of this?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Palme d'Or (earlier Grand Prix), the top prize at the festival, is awarded to the director of the best feature film. Who among the following is not a recipient of the award? Francis Ford Coppola, Andrei Tarkovsky, Akira Kurosawa, David Lynch, Martin Scorsese and Orson Welles. **Ans: Andrei Tarkovsky**
2. Name the Indian filmmaker heading the Cannes Critics Week jury this year. Her film won the Grand Prix in 2024. **Ans: Payal Kapadia**
3. Jane Campion, Julia Ducournau and Justine Triet are the only women directors to have received the festival's top prize. Name the films for which they won. **Ans: The Piano (1993); Titane (2021); Anatomy of a Fall (2023)**
4. The 1968 festival was shut down after Jean-Luc Godard interrupted and blocked screenings. Why did they do this? **Ans: To show solidarity with the students and workers' strike in France**
5. Name the only Indian film to receive top honours at the festival. **Ans: Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar**
6. Which restored Malayalam classic is being showcased at Cannes 2026? **Ans: John Abraham's Amma Ariyan**
Visual: The official poster for Cannes 2026 features Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis on the set of their 1991 film. Name the movie and its director. **Ans: Thelma & Louise; Ridley Scott**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya | Erfanally Oosmany | Sukdev Shet | Arjun Debnath | Prem Nath Tiwari

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the origin and meaning of the expression "to kick the bucket"? (Subhashini, Chennai)
The idiom "to kick the bucket" means "to die" and it is normally used in very informal contexts. You will never find a newspaper headline screaming, "Local M.P kicks the bucket". Similarly, it would be unwise to ask someone "I understand your father kicked the bucket yesterday. How did it happen?" The idiom should not be used with people who have suffered a recent loss in the family. Here are a few examples.

Sunitha told me that our former Principal kicked the bucket last week.

Several people in their family kicked the bucket last year.

People have come up with different theories as to how this expression came into being. One of them is the following. In the old days, when someone wanted to commit suicide or when people wanted to hang someone, they made use of a bucket – an article that was readily available in all houses. What they used to do was to tie a rope to a tree and under the rope they used to place an empty bucket. The bucket was then turned upside down and the man who was to be hanged was made to stand on it. The noose was slipped around the victim's neck and the bucket was then kicked away. Result? A slow and painful death.

How is the word "collage" pronounced? (Basheer Kutty, Kollam)
The "o" in the first syllable is like the "o" in words like "hot", "pot", and "cot". The "a" in the second syllable is like the "a" in "bath", "path", and "cart". The final "ge" is like the "s" in "measure", "treasure," and "pleasure". The stress is on the second syllable. Some people pronounce the "o" in the first syllable like the "a" in "China". Both pronunciations are acceptable.

A collage is a picture that you create by sticking various materials/objects onto a hard surface. People often make use of pieces of cloth, paper, and metal to create this picture.

Which of the following sentences is correct? "None of them is any good" or "None of them are any good"? (P. Vani, Pollachi)
Both are acceptable. There was a time, however, when it was recommended that the word "none" be followed by a singular verb. But times have changed; it is now possible to use either a singular or a plural verb when "none" refers to a countable noun. For example, it is possible to say:

None of the telephones is/are working.

None of the students have/has turned up.

People who are extremely fond of grammar insist, even today, that a singular and not a plural verb should follow "none".

What is the meaning of "Que sera sera"? (M. Mrinalini, Nellore)
It means, "what will be, will be". There is a well- known song by that title. Here are a few lines from it.

When I was just a little girl, I asked my mother what will I be?
Will I be pretty? Will I be rich?
This is what she said to me.
Que sera sera, whatever will be will be,
The future is not ours to see,
Que sera sera, what will be, will be..

Published in The Hindu on August, 15, 2000

Word of the day

Spiel:
plausible glib talk

Synonyms: presentation, speech, talk, pitch

Usage: *The waiter gave us a long spiel about the specials.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/spiel

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʃpi:l/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

What students can wear under the new uniform rules

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under the new rules related to school and college dress codes in Karnataka, announced by Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa on Wednesday, students can wear turbans, sacred threads, Shiva beads, rudraksha beads, headscarves, and other symbols.

However, the order says these symbols must only complement the prescribed uniform and "should not alter, modify or defeat the basic purpose of the uniform".

Madhu Bangarappa

Addressing the media, Mr. Bangarappa said the issue was brought to him by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao following an incident in which students writing CET exams were forced to remove the

Turbans, sacred threads, Shiva beads, rudraksha beads, headscarves, and other symbols are allowed under the new rules

sacred thread. "He (Dinesh Gundu Rao) told me we must take up the matter with the Chief Minister. Such issues, he said, should not crop up as it undermines students' confidence," the Minister said. Mr. Rao, along with Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagar MLA, was present at the press conference.

The new order dated May 13 states that no student can be denied entry into an educational institution, classroom, examination hall or for any academic activity for wearing these permitted symbols along with the prescribed uniform. However, in examinations, any national or State-level dress code rules already in place will continue to apply wherever necessary.

Appeasement, says BJP

Following the announcement, R. Ashok, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, said the Karnataka government, "rattled by the political message emerging from the Davangere bypoll" and the growing unease within sections of its minority vote base, has fallen back on its familiar politics of appeasement.

"In a desperate attempt at damage control, the Siddaramaiah government has chosen to reopen the hijab issue through its latest order on uniforms in educational institutions. It is the same old Congress formula – create political distraction through identity-based decisions, when governance fails," he said in a post on X.

Mr. Ashok called it "a calculated political bribe to appease a specific community that has recently shown its discontent".

"The Congress party is racing down the same dangerous path that led the TMC in West Bengal to political and social turmoil," Mr. Ashok said.

Case in apex court

The larger legal questions linked to the Karnataka hijab case are still pending before the Supreme Court of India. Since the two-judge bench hearing the matter delivered a split verdict and did not reach a final decision, the Constitutional issues raised in the case are yet to be settled by a larger bench.

₹2,384 crore ITC fraud network unearthed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Wing (South Zone) of the State Commercial Taxes Department, in coordination with the Service Analysis and Intelligence Wing, has unearthed a massive fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) cartel involving fraudulent transactions worth ₹2,384 crore. Two key accused have been arrested in Bengaluru.

Officials exposed a highly organised fake invoicing racket allegedly operating through bogus firms engaged in the trading of Tungsten Carbide scrap, e-waste, and scrap materials.

Saleemulla Baig, 49, proprietor of SKS Traders, allegedly availed fake ITC through 72 bogus supplier entities involving suspicious business turnover of nearly ₹2,172 crore and fraudulent ITC claims amounting to around ₹382 crore. Hassain Baig, 35, associated with K.H. E-waste Recycler at Nayandahalli, was found to have availed fake ITC from 55 bogus supplier entities involving suspicious turnover of approximately ₹212 crore and fraudulent ITC of nearly ₹38 crore.

Water shortage, power cuts trigger protests at NLSIU

The protest was not triggered by a sudden disruption, but by 'frustration over long-pending issues' that have not been addressed despite being flagged multiple times, say students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After months of complaints over water shortage, power cuts, and overcrowded hostel facilities, students of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) staged multiple protests on the campus.

The students first staged a protest on Tuesday night around 10 p.m. at the university's basketball court. They protested again on Wednesday afternoon from 1 p.m. at the professors' mess, and later at 3 p.m. at the amphitheatre, alleging that repeated concerns raised with the administration have largely gone unaddressed.

National Law School of India University students protesting on the campus on Tuesday night.

Students told *The Hindu* that the protest was not triggered by a sudden disruption, but by "frustration over long-pending issues" that have shown little improvement despite being flagged multiple times.

A common concern raised by students was the irregular water supply in hostels. They said taps, flushes, and jet sprays stop working abruptly, while water coolers do not dispense drinking water at times. There have also been instances of unclean water supply, they alleged. Students said the problem becomes especially difficult during the summer, more so in crowded hostel rooms.

Students also alleged overcrowding, particularly in women's hostels. A final-year student said that while men's hostels have 18 bunk beds, women's hostels have 93. In some hostel blocks, they said, 36 women are sharing three toilets.

"There has been a continuing range of residence life issues, particularly concerning the women's hostel, the latest being the complete lack of water supply in the hostel for multiple hours and erratic supply for multiple days," a final-year student said, adding that despite the university being one of the premier institutions, students are forced to live in inhumane conditions with concerns being unheard for months and no concrete measures being undertaken.

"We are prepared to continue the protest until the Vice-Chancellor meets the students and provides concrete, student-friendly solutions to the issues faced by them," students said. The added that the Registrar and the Vice-Chancellor had visited them around 4 p.m., but did not speak to them, only heard their concerns, and soon left.

Safety concerns over ongoing construction on campus were also highlighted during the protest. Students said that academic activities are being carried out amid construction despite inadequate safeguards. They mentioned a recent incident in which heavy cement slabs fell in a commonly used area, though no one was injured. In another incident, they alleged free fall of a lift in one of the men's hostels from the second floor to the basement. Two students were in the lift at the time of the incident.

When these issues were taken up with the administration, the students claimed that the authorities responded that solutions cannot be provided overnight.

Students questioned the state of hostel infrastructure despite the fees charged by the university. They said annual fees range between ₹4.5 lakh and ₹5 lakh, with more than ₹1.2 lakh going towards hostel accommodation.

"The academic pressure is already intense. The least students expect is basic facilities," a student said, adding that the issue is not just about inconvenience, but dignity and basic living conditions, particularly when there is no reliable access to water.

The university, despite repeated attempts to reach it over phone calls and email, was not available for comment.

Non-profits in disability sector get low CSR funding, govt. allocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite nearly 10% of India's registered non-profits working in disability, the sector receives only an estimated 1% of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding, a recent study has shown.

Released by Bengaluru-based law firm and think tank Pacta and disability inclusion enabler Able Foundation, the report titled 'The Landscape of Funding for Disability in India', finds that India's disability sector is caught in a "low-funding equilibrium", where low government prioritisation, weak philanthropic investment, and limited non-profit capacity continue to constrain sector growth and impact.

According to the report, the combined Union and State allocations for disability also remain critically low at approximately 0.04% of GDP. This accentuates the problem, given how funders hesitate in the absence of a stronger State commitment and low public investment in the sector.

Reason for low interest

Disability interventions were often found to cost two to three times more per beneficiary than comparable social sector programmes, which could be another reason for low interest.

The study surveyed 52 disability-focused non-profit organisations across India.

"For years, disability has remained visible in policy language but invisible in funding flows. This report is an attempt to show that underfunding is not incidental, it is structural," said Nivedita Krishna, founder of Pacta.

The report outlines ten pathways to strengthen disability funding ecosystems in India, including mainstreaming disability across education and livelihoods portfolios, expanding trust-based and multi-year funding models, strengthening matchmaking infrastructure between funders and disability organisations, and enforcing the RPwD Act's mandate for 5% reservation across government development schemes.

"The disability sector does not lack committed organisations. What it lacks is the connective tissue trust, visibility, networks, and long-term capital that allows good work to grow sustainably," said Sudhir Shenoy, founder of Able Together.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 14
RISE 05:55 SET 18:37
RISE 03:29 SET 16:11

FRIDAY, MAY. 15
RISE 05:55 SET 18:38
RISE 04:13 SET 17:10

SATURDAY, MAY. 16
RISE 05:54 SET 18:38
RISE 05:03 SET 18:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 31 GRC 2026 **Date:04.05.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Police Inspector, Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Economic Offence Wing, Central Crime Branch, Bengaluru, after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of the Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Special Officer and Competent Authority, IMA and Competent Authority for Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities, and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches movable properties as specified in the Annexure-1 and Annexure-2 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishments, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishments is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the afore said movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department
(Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Details of Gold Jewellery belongs to Fradulent Financial Establishment : Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha

Annexure-1

Sl. No.	Particulars	weight as per Valuator (in grams)		Remarks
		App. Net Weight	Gross Weight	
1	Gold Earsets with Stones and Beads (Jumkas)	14.00	19.30	Gold Jewellery handed over by Liquidator, Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha
2	Gold Necklace with Stones and Beads	145.00	174.20	

Annexure-2

Details of Vehicles in the name of Financial Establishment Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha

Sl. No	Registration number	Vehicle model	Type of Vehicle	Date of registration	Name of the owner	Chassis Number	Engine Number	Remarks
1	KA02MP0893	MAHINDRA TUV300 T6 +	7 seater	15.12.2018	Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha	MA1NA2VZXJ6J45229	VZJ6J78498	Vehicle is in the name of Financial Establishment
2	KA02ML7714	MARUTI ERITIGA ZXI	7 seater	26.08.2016	Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha	MA3ELMG1S00408647	K14BN4036415	Vehicle is in the name of Financial Establishment
3	KA02JV7588	MASTERO EDGE	2 Wheeler	25.07.2018	Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha	MBLJFW014H4J15574	JF33AABH4J15546	Vehicle is in the name of Financial Establishment
4	KA02JP5236	MAESTRO EDGE	2 Wheeler	26.05.2017	Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha	MBLJFW018H4E02788	JF33AABH4E02637	Vehicle is in the name of Financial Establishment
5	KA02HU9340	BAJAJ PLATINA ALLOY	2 Wheeler	30.04.2013	Shushruthi Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha	MD2A18AZ5DWK04139	DZZWDK74768	Vehicle is in the name of Financial Establishment

Sd/- (Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department
(Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/650/2026-27

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ST quota back at 3% raises concerns over proportional representation

While the 1931 Census put the ST population at about 0.8%, it is now estimated to be over 7% of Karnataka's population; demand for increased reservation — proportion to the ST population — is more than two decades old

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Ahead of Karnataka government's plans to fill 56,432 posts in various departments in a big recruitment drive, youth from the Scheduled Tribes fear reduced opportunities due to reduction in reservation for STs. In a bid to address legal issues, the State government has decided to revert to 3% reservation for STs, which existed prior to 2022, from the proposed enhancement to 7%.

The demand for increased reservation – proportion to the ST population – had been a more-than-two-decade-old demand as the population of the STs in Karnataka increased with the inclusion of more communities.

From six in the original ST list of 1950 in Karnataka (when the estimated population based on the 1931 census was about 0.8%), the list now has 51 tribes, including the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, estimated to be over 7% of the State's population. The State government fixed the reservation quota for STs at 3% in 1958 based on their population then.

"Over decades, the population has increased as more tribes were included. The increase is based on the Karnataka High Court's direction and on recommendation by the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission," former MP V.S. Ugrappa pointed out.

The increase in the number of tribes and subsequent increase in the ST population started after the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976, by which geographical limitations attached to the castes/ tribes were removed, resulting in extraordinary increase of ST population.

"For example, before the amendment, only the Naikas in Belagavi were part of the list earlier. Once the restrictions were removed, Naikas across the State also became eligible," Mr. Ugrappa, a Congress spokesperson, pointed out.

The Karnataka government is planning to fill 56,432 posts in various departments in a big recruitment drive. FILE PHOTO

Numbers in Karnataka

- Original ST list **6 communities**
- Current ST list **51 communities**
- Earlier estimated population of STs **0.8 %**
- Current estimated population **over 7 %**

Reasons for increased ST population

- Centre removing geographical restriction for drawing the ST list in 1976
- Subsequent adding of synonymous names of tribes bringing more population into fold
- Inclusion of Nayakas/ Valmikis/ Bedas in 1991 brought big jump in population

Synonymous names

The biggest jump of population was post 1991 when the Centre included Naikas/Valmikis/ Bedas in the list, making them the dominant tribes among the 51 tribes. Subsequently, several other tribes with synonymous names also came to be part of the list, and the reservation of 3% provided in 1955 was far less than the population.

When The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act 2022 providing for 17% and 7% to SCs and STs respectively was enacted, the reasons of increased population, backwardness, inadequate representation in government employment and education had been cited for increasing the reservation matrix.

In 2015, the Karnataka High Court directed the State government to consider increase of reservation for STs.

Going backwards

"After providing the proportionate reservation, the State government's decision to revert takes the tribes back to where they were. Legally, the government has not represented the case well. Two parliamentary seats and 15 Assembly seats are reserved for STs in Karnataka that is in proportion to the population. Similarly, seats are reserved in local bodies," he added.

(This is the first of a two-part series)

BJP to launch campaign against reduction in reservation for STs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Congress government of "cheating" the Scheduled Tribe community by reducing their reservation quota, the BJP has decided to launch a public campaign against it in this regard.

Disclosing this at a press conference here on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok said the BJP was holding consultations with affected communities as part of efforts to build a Statewide campaign by involving them.

He pointed out that the erstwhile BJP dispensation led by Basavaraj Bommai had increased the reservation for SCs from 15% to 17% and STs from 3% to 7%, based on their population. This had been done to provide a fair level of reservation for these oppressed communities to ensure social justice, he said.

But the Congress government had "hatched a conspiracy" against these communities and reduced the reservation level for STs to the earlier level of 3%, he said and described it as betraying the oppressed communities.

Referring to the claims of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of being pro-Dalit, he wondered if reducing reservation for Dalits was a pro-Dalit measure.

Expressing concern that Scheduled Tribe communities would have to struggle for many more years to get their reservation quantum increased again, he urged the government to immediately restore their reservation to the earlier 7%.

Association objects to new roster

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the State government on Wednesday announced the 400-point roster ahead of the recruitment process set to be restarted to fill 56,432 posts, the Karnataka State Government Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Employees' Association has taken objection to it, stating that it was not scientific.

It said that the first 50 roster points was unscientific and would have adverse effect on the SC community aspirants in appointment of Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts that included those of assistant commissioners, deputy superintendents of police and deputy directors, among many others. Calling the discrepancy in the roster prepared by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms "deliberate" to deny opportunities to SC community, the association petitioned five Dalit Ministers in the Cabinet, urging for a fresh scientific roster.

"Normally, the KPSC that recruits for Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts does not notify large numbers. If the notified posts are less than 50, it will affect the community candidates," sources said. In the history of KPSC, big recruitments for particular posts in excess of 50 have never been done.

However, the sources said, the subsequent 50 roster points – 51 to 100 – have been fixed scientifically, and it would benefit the communities.

"In recruitments where more than 50 posts are involved, the community will benefit. These will be in Home, Education and Health departments and these will be non-Group 'A' and Group 'B'."

The association said that while the 100-point roster formed in 1995 was unscientific, the same had been followed to form the 400-point roster.

Women's coalition urges speedy implementation of 33% reservation

National Coalition for Women's Reservation-Karnataka members addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the National Coalition for Women's Reservation-Karnataka has demanded immediate implementation of the women's reservation Act by delinking it from Census and delimitation.

Condemning the delay in delivering equal political representation for women, the members demanded that in the Monsoon Session, the government should take steps to implement the Act.

"The 2023 legislation introduced as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has failed to translate that promise into reality. By linking implementation to a future Census and delimitation exercise, the government has effectively placed women's political representation on indefinite hold," said a statement from the coalition.

Jyothi A. from NFIW stressed that the demand for women's reservation has been continuing for three decades and questioned the need to link it with Census and delimitation.

"Development is not possible without equal political representation of women who form 50% of the population. Narendra Modi promised that he would get the Bill passed soon after he becomes Prime Minister. It has been more than a decade since he came to power. The Act is still awaiting implementation," said Devi from AIDWA.

The Union government recently attempted to pass a delimitation-linked legislative package claimed to be aimed at expediting the women's reservation Act. The Bill, however, was defeated in Parliament.

Over the past two months, the coalition has intensified nationwide mobilisation through petition campaigns and public outreach initiatives urging to implement the 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies.

Aasha Ramesh from Vimochana pointed out that even the 2023 Bill covered reservation of women in only Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies leaving out Rajya Sabha and State Lagislative Councils. Shilpa Prasad of AIPWA, Celin Thomas of ICWM, Dorcas Pearl Sudeep of YWCA Bengaluru and Leila Passah, development professional, spoke at the event.

ASHAs seek ₹10,000 monthly honorarium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accredited Social Health Activists raising slogans during a protest in Bengaluru Wednesday. PTI

Demanding immediate release of pending honorarium and incentives, and implementation of a fixed monthly pay of ₹10,000, hundreds of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) from Bengaluru Urban, Rural and GBA regions staged a protest at Freedom Park on Wednesday.

The protest was organised by the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha, affiliated to AIUTUC .The protesters alleged that Central government incentives for the last three to four months and State honorarium for two months were yet to be released. They also opposed the deactivation of nine services in the ASHA Nidhi software, claiming it would lead to a monthly loss of ₹500 to ₹1,000 per worker.

The protest was organised by the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha

Addressing the protest, State vice-president of the association, Rama T.C. said ASHAs across Karnataka were facing delays in payment despite carrying out extensive healthcare responsibilities.

She alleged that incentives linked to TB, TBI and non-communicable disease programmes had been pending for several years. She also criticised the mandatory use of the 'Samasta' app and alleged exploitation of workers in the name of evaluation.

Urban ASHA leader, Mahalakshmi, said the workers had been forced to repeatedly agitate for basic entitlements despite years of service in the public health sector.

The protesters also demanded continuation of ASHA facilitators' services with proper wages, retirement benefits for workers, and implementation of the ₹1,000 hike announced in the State Budget earlier this year.

The association warned of a larger agitation if the government failed to address their demands.

RTC unions to go on strike from May 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite a wage hike of 12.5% for Road Transport Corporations (RTC) employees, the Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has said it will go ahead with an indefinite strike from May 20, as planned before. The committee represents seven RTC employee unions.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the committee said at a recent meeting with Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, it was demanded that the government approve a salary hike of 25% for all RTC employees, with effect from January 1, 2024, for a period of four years.

"The Transport Minister said the RTC management's proposal for a 7% hike was not final and that a decision would be taken after discussing with the Chief Minister. He also assured us that another meeting would be convened with us. But the government has unilaterally gone ahead and announced a wage hike of 12.5%. This is unacceptable," the statement said.

The committee also pointed out that the State government had already implemented the Seventh Pay Commission for State government employees and hiked their wages by 27.5% four years ago. It condemned the "discrimination" towards RTC employees.

Other demands include paying arrears for 26 months.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

A. MALLICK BADSHA (88), Retired Press Aid, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 13th May 2026. Address: 33/45, New Farrance Road, Dashamakkan, Perambur Barracks, Chennai-600012.Contact:9840442591

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FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited, in online mode, from eligible candidates to fill up regular posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in the Departments of Anthropology, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science & MCA, Economics, Education & B.Ed, English, Geology, History, Mathematics & Statistics, Odia, Physics, Political Science, Zoology at Khallikote Unitary University, Berhampur.

Detailed advertisements will be available on the University website **https://kuu.ac.in** as well as on the HIMS Portal https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home from 22.05.2026. The application process shall be conducted entirely in online mode through the HIMS Portal https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home **from 22.05.2026 to 22.06.2026 (11.59 PM)**. After submitting the application online, a printout of the same, along with all supporting documents duly self-attested by the applicant, must be sent to the "Registrar, Khallikote Unitary University, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-760001" **by Speed Post only** so as to reach the office **on or before 30.06.2026 by 05.30 PM**.

For details of vacant Posts, essential qualifications, other terms and conditions, please visit the University website **https://kuu.ac.in** and for application visit HIMS Portal https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home.

REGISTRAR

11001/50/2627 OIPR-11001/11125/1/26-27/0003

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU ORIGINAL JURISDICTION PROBATE CIVIL PETITION No.2 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF THE WILL OF MRS.PREMA S. HEDGE (DECEASED)

BETWEEN:
MS. MEENA HEGDE
D/o. late Y.S. Hedge and late Mrs. Prema S. Hedge,
Aged about 62 years
Residing at
No. 34, 80 Feet Road, HAL 3rd Stage, Indiranagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru-560 075
.....PETITIONER

AND

NIL .....RESPONDENT

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has made a petition dated 09.02.2026 under Part IX (Sections 222, 273, 276 & 300) of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of probate on account of the death of Mrs. Prema S. Hedge in favour of the petitioner the who died on 13.01.2023 at No. 34, 80 Feet Road, HAL 3rd Stage, Indiranagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru-560 075 in respect of the properties of the deceased.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on **Eighteenth day of June Two Thousand and Twenty-Six(18.06.2026)** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.

Given under my hand and seal of this court this the Thirtieth day of April Two Thousand and Twenty-Six (30.04.2026).

By order of Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru-560001

Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocate
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 12.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Clients are intending to purchase immovable property No. 43, (earlier Site No. 43) , **EPID No. 4021452490**, situated at Domlur Extension (Domlur Layout) B'lore-71, measuring on the E-W: 40 ft, N-S :60 ft in all measuring 2400 sq ft together with an building standing thereon and bounded on the East By : Site No. 42, West By : Site No. 44, North by :Site No. 36, South by: Road, from its owners **Mrs. SARADA M.D,** W/o., Late D. Damodaran and others, residing at No.43, 1st A Main Road, Domlur Layout, B'lore-71,. Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within **7 days** of publication hereof, failing which, our client will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V. NAVEEN KUMAR RAO & H.V. SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No. 57, 1st Floor,Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-01 **Mobile No. 9341380225**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mrs. Shantha Kumari & Niranjan Kumar** both are Residing at No.1, 2nd Cross Udayalakshmi Layout, Behind Kumaran School, Vijinapura, Ramrthy Nagar, Bangalore - 16, intends to purchase schedule property from **Mrs. Sapna Sharma** residing at No. D-21, Paryavaran Complex, PO. Mehruli, Saidulajab, South Delhi, 110030 Any person, claiming to have any charge, lien, interest minor, claims, right/s whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 21/05/2026 failing which my clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment bearing No.203, In F Block, 2nd Floor Constructed upon Survey numbers 392, 393 of Kalkeri Village, KR Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,in the apartment KNOWS'as M/S KEERTHI HARMONY consisting of 2 bed room and having super built area of 1310 Sqft along with UNDIVIDED share of 643.20 with all rights, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface.

From : **VEMURI.SRINIVAS** Advocate
MA,LLB, KAR NO.514/99
Sri. Venkateswara Rao Nilaya
Bhagawanthi Associates
No.613, Kaveri Layout, Marathalli, Bangalore-37. Mobile : 9243110037
Mail : vsradvocate37@gmail.com
Date : 13/05/2026

Protection to religion not just for 'essential practices', says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Constitution presumes that every religious practice is protected unless it violates public order, morality, and health, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Appearing before a nine-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant in the Sabarimala review hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the protection afforded to religion was not restricted to "essential religious practices" alone, but had a wider ambit.

Mr. Mehta, who opened the rejoinder in the constitutional reference hearing, said the burden was on the challenger to show that a religious practice breached public order, morality, and health.

He further submitted that fundamental rights in the Constitution have been interpreted expansively by the court in the past. Only Article 25 (right to religion and freedom of conscience) and Article 26 (freedom of denominations or any section thereof to manage their own religious affairs) were given restrictive meanings by the court. "Articles 25 and 26 were the only fundamental rights the court gave restricted meanings, saying the rights would be protected to the extent of 'essential religious practices' only," Mr. Mehta submitted.

He pointed out that the phrase 'essential religious practices' is absent in the text of the Constitution, arguing that it was sheer judicial creativity at work.

Interconnected rights

Mr. Mehta added that Articles 25 and 26 are interconnected, not isolated silos, submitting that an individual's freedom of conscience and the right of a denomination to manage its own affairs are interconnected. Article 26 is only a manifestation of the individual right in a collective form, he said.

"Fundamental rights are not islands," he said.

The full day hearing also saw the Supreme Court observe that people need not go to a temple to be religious. A small lamp lit in a hut was an equally poignant expression of faith, Chief Justice Kant said.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna added Hinduism was a way of life, and did not depend on ritualistic practices or frequent visits to temples.

Legal scholar and former director of the National Judicial Academy, Mohan Gopal, submitted that what Justice Nagarathna referred to was called 'autotheism' or the individual freedom of conscience to explore one's own inner conscience.

Congress defers Kerala CM announcement once again

Meeting between Rahul and Kharge ends without declaration; supporters gather before houses of the three CM contenders in anticipation of decision; MLAs-elect summoned to Indira Bhavan today

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On tenterhooks: Workers wait outside KPCC headquarters Indira Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The Congress high command has deferred announcing the party's Chief Minister designate for Kerala, ostensibly until Thursday.

The test of nerves centred on the Congress's so far unsettled leadership question in Kerala, despite a historic win in the Assembly polls, appeared set to go down to the wire with a high-level meeting between Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Rahul Gandhi and Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge in the latter's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday ending without an announcement.

The anticipation for the momentous proclamation from New Delhi appeared to reach a feverish pitch in Kerala, with sizeable crowds of Congress workers congregating outside the residences of the three top contenders for the post – All India Congress Committee general secretary K.C. Venugopal, senior leader Ramesh Chennithala in Alappuzha, and former Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan at Paravur in Ernakulam.

A KPCC insider, citing media reports that Mr. Venugopal was party to the summit meeting, said the high command seemed to be attempting to take the Congress Legislature Party into confidence in a bid to strike a middle ground between the respective factions. Notably, the high command has summoned the Congress MLAs-elect to Indira Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram today.

Raging group war

Meanwhile, anonymous posters condemning Mr. Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MP, for allegedly supporting Mr. Venugopal appeared in the latter's constituency in Wayanad.

At Kottoor in Kozhikode, the Congress ward committee threatened to quit en masse if the high command pushed ahead with Mr. Venugopal's candidature.

POCSO case: Minister's son skips summons

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Several women protest outside police station demanding justice in the case

Even as Bandi Sai Bhagirath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, failed to appear for questioning in connection with a case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, several women protested outside the Petbasheerabad police station in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Women from various organisations gathered near the station with flags, banners and placards demanding justice in the case. Police were seen controlling the crowd amid heavy security arrangements.

A similar protest had been staged by women's groups on Sunday.

The Cyberabad Police had, on Tuesday, served him a notice directing to appear before investigators at the Petbasheerabad police station by 2 p.m. on Wednesday. The accused, however, had not arrived at the police station as of 2.05 p.m., effectively missing the first summons issued by the police.

Lookout posters

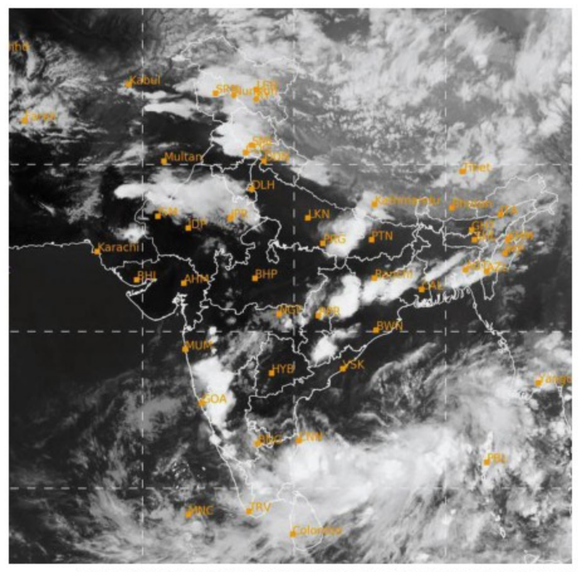
He has approached the Telangana High Court seeking anticipatory bail in the case registered on May 8 following allegations of sexual assault on a 17-year-old girl.

With the probe intensifying, the Cyberabad Police have dispatched multiple teams to New Delhi and Karimnagar in search of the accused, who has remained absconding for the past five days.

Meanwhile, posters urging the public to alert the nearest police station if they had information about his whereabouts surfaced in the Serilingampally and Gachibowli areas.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave/severe heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.3	24.9	Kozhikode	6	34.6	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	44.1	29.5	Kurnool	—	42.0	28.1
Aizawl	—	31.6	19.9	Lucknow	—	38.1	27.4
Allahabad	—	43.5	29.0	Madurai	0.5	35.0	26.6
Bengaluru	—	34.2	24.0	Mangaluru	23	33.2	22.5
Bhopal	—	43.2	29.2	Mumbai	—	34.2	28.6
Bhubaneswar	—	37.3	25.6	Mysuru	—	34.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	38.6	23.0	New Delhi	—	39.2	26.4
Chennai	—	36.7	27.6	Patna	—	35.3	25.0
Coimbatore	—	34.2	23.6	Port Blair	22	30.0	25.1
Dehradun	0.8	35.1	20.8	Puducherry	—	35.6	26.4
Gangtok	82	20.4	14.0	Pune	—	41.4	29.2
Goa	—	36.2	28.8	Raipur	—	41.0	29.2
Guwahati	1	26.9	23.3	Ranchi	46	34.1	19.0
Hubballi	—	36.0	24.0	Shillong	3	17.6	14.1
Hyderabad	—	39.6	27.0	Shimla	—	27.5	18.2
Imphal	—	30.5	18.8	Srinagar	1	23.3	10.2
Jaipur	—	43.8	28.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.7	34.0	25.2
Kochi	—	32.2	23.8	Tiruchi	—	36.3	27.0
Kohima	—	23.0	15.0	Vijayawada	—	37.9	27.4
Kolkata	0.8	35.5	26.9	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.59	105	27	103	151	
Bengaluru	7	18	44	81	112	
Chennai	14	14	51	27	60	
Delhi	.51	—	84	254	168	
Hyderabad	14	14	35	62	92	
Kolkata	16	25	22	39	49	
Lucknow	10	23	43	136	124	
Mumbai	29	6	14	66	81	
Pune	32	32	42	45	66	
Visakhapatnam	7	17	11	16	48	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Mandideep, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 210 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KALA Manimaran(Kala M), W/o Manimaran, r/at No.06, 1st Cross, Sathyamurthy Road, RS Palya, Bangalore 560033 have changed my name from Kala Kalairaj to Kala Manimaran (Kala M) vide affidavit dtd 11.05.2026 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bluru.

I, Saraswathi Yarlagadda W/O, Prakash Yarlagadda R/o #46, 2nd Main, Brindavan Estate, Vignana Nagar, Marathahalli Colony, B'luru-560037 have changed my name to Vadluri Saraswathi for all purposes.

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P1/02/2026-27 Date: 14-05-2026

QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for supply of **Bhasmasindoorams** from manufacturers of Bhasma sindoorams. Due date & time **28-05-2026, 3 p.m.** For more details please contact our Purchase Division or visit our website **www.oushadhi.org.**

(Sd/-)
Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JAYALAKSHMI Shivanand Hondadakeri, wife of Shivanand Hondadakeri, residing at No.38, SVGNSS Layout, 1st Cross, Near Water Tank, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560079, do hereby declare that I am also known as Jaya, Jaya S and Jayalakshmi S Hondadakeri in certain documents such as Share Certificates, PAN Card and other documents. All the above names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE, TIRUNELVELI
MACOP.NO.1366/2025
Arockia Ruban ...Petitioner
Vs
K.Thangaraj, S/o.A.Kunnudaiyan No.10, SSS Building, A V Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018 ...1st Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the petitioner in the above case has filed claim application on account of Vehicle damage in a vehicular accident held on 27-09-2023 at Tuticorin-Tirunelveli NH Road, Near Vallanadu, Gun Shooting Spot. The above case is posted on 12-06-2026 for appearance of the 1st respondent before this Hon'ble Court on 10.00 A.M, failing which the court will decide the 1st respondent as "Called Expartee" in this case.

-As per Court Order-
By Advocate
A.SELVARAJ, B.Sc., B.L.,
Tuticorin. ✆ 99940 21194

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

e-Tenders is invited for the following works by Superintending Engineer (Mech), as per Tender Condition

Name of the Work	Approximate value of Works (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
M.E.D.C.No.M1/0426/2026 Purchase of 30 numbers of CNG operated HMV Tipper (8.5 Cu.M capacity) (As per Tender Condition)	9,60,00,000/-	9,60,000/-
M.E.D.C.No.M1/0496/2026 Purchase of 10 Nos of Battery Operated Mechanical Sweeper Mounted on LMV vehicle (As per Tender Condition)	9,00,00,000/-	9,00,000/-

Last Date and Time for bid Submission : **01.06.2026, 3.00 P.M**
Tender Opening Date and Time : **02.06.2026 @ 3.30 P.M**
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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Stage, M.S. Building,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001.

No. ED/56/UBV/2026(Part-1) **Date: 13.05.2026**

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore

The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites application for the selection of Vice –Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore as per section 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act 2000 from eligible and distinguished Academicians/Professors. Applications should be submitted within 30 days (including general holidays) from the date of this advertisement to the "Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, 6th Floor, Gate No. 03, Room No. 601 (R & I Section), M S Building, Bengaluru 560001". Soft copy of the application in PDF format should be sent to email : **busearchcommittee2026@gmail.com.** The application form is available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Secretary to Government
Department of Higher Education

DIPR/CP/630/Zen/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public is hereby notified on behalf of my client who is the owner of property **No. 37, M.N. Krishna Rao Road, Basavanagudi, Opposite to Lalbagh Westgate, Bangalore-560004** that certain Builders / person are falsely claiming right to develop and sell Flats / Apartments on my client's property. My client has not entered into any Agreement nor authorized any person or entity for such development of sale. Any such representations or transactions are fraudulent and void.

The public is advised to independently verify and refrain from dealing with such persons / Builders. My client shall not be liable for any loss arising therefrom. Appropriate legal proceedings will be initiated against those involved.

Date: 13.05.2026 Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- B.N. Ananthanarayana
Advocate,
No. 3/8, Karnic Road, Shankarapuram,
Bangalore-560004. (M): 9886151710

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-14/1171/2026-27 **Date: 13.05.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors (Civil) who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : 1) Providing and laying of Effluent Network at Adinarayanahosahalli Industrial Area Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **2)** Providing and laying of Domestic Sewage Network at Adinarayanahosahalli Industrial Area Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **3)** Providing and laying of Effluent Network at Devanahalli General Industrial Area, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **4)** Providing and laying of Domestic Sewage Network at Devanahalli General Industrial Area, Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.06.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/645/Zen/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-3&4/e-Tender/2026-27/ 339, Dated:12.05.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-1,2 & 4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under CMIDP Programme & 8443 Deposit Contribution (ITI College Repair) and 4202 Education Dept Under Yadgir Taluka-(1)32708, (2)36102 and (3)36107 Total 03 (Three) works Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Miminimum Rs 14.50 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.425.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** Civil Class-III & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:** 18.05.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification:** 20.05.2026 (Upto 13.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:** 22.05.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 25.05.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 27.05.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division: Yadgir. **11) Website Address:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

DIP/YDG/68/KSMC&A/2026-27

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
The Executive Engineer, KBJNL SBC O&M Division
Bheemarayanagudi-585287, Tq :Shahapur, Dist: Yadagiri
email:kbjnleesbc@gmail.com

No. KBJNL/EE/SBC/TND/PB/2026-27/ 86 DATED:11.05.2026

CORRIGENDUM / TIME EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

Ref:- 1) T.O. Tender Notification No.21, Dated:-.10.04.2026

In continuation of this office tender notification cited under above reference for the tender for the work of Karnal Lift Irrigation Scheme on Turnkey Basis".(Work indent no:KBJNL/2025-26/ LI/WORK_INDENT2775)"are invited through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in the calendar of events has been Extended due to technical reasons as below:-

Sl No	Particulars	Notified Date	Extended Date
1	Contractors can request for e-tendering documents	From 15.04.2026	Unchanged
2	Submission of completed e-tendering document	12.05.2026 up to 5.00 PM	Up to 19.05.2026 @ 5.00 PM
3	Pre-Bid meeting	22.04.2026 @ 11.00 AM	Unchanged
4	Technical Bid will be opened in this Division office on	14.05.2026 @ 11.00 AM	20.05.2026 @ 5.30 PM
5	Financial Bid will be opened in this Division office on	18.05.2026 @ 11.30 AM(Tentative)	25.05.2026 @ 11.00 AM (Tentative)

Other terms and conditions of the Notification remain unchanged.

For any clarification regarding the tenders please Contact http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or office of the undersigned during office hours on working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, SBC O&M Division
Bheemarayanagudi.

DIP/YDG/66/KSMC&A/2026-27

Testing troubles

Leaks and breaches have destroyed the National Testing Agency's credibility

Once bitten, twice shy: this saying surely does not apply to the National Testing Agency (NTA). Given the number of times that the Agency has run into trouble in the conduct of common entrance exams, it would have been logical to expect those at the helm to have learnt their lessons. However, this week's cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG affecting over 22 lakh students is a serious blow to the agency's reputation. The NTA, on May 12, 2026, announced the cancellation of the exam held on May 3, amid allegations of paper leak, as the government tasked the CBI with carrying out a comprehensive inquiry. The decision followed investigations revealing that a 'guess paper' – a collection of predicted, high-importance questions created to help students prepare – matched numerous questions in chemistry and biology. Media reports said that this material had reached coaching hubs in Rajasthan nearly a month ahead, and had been sold to aspirants for huge sums. This led to investigations by the Rajasthan Police Special Operations Group and 15 people were arrested. In the face of such obvious fraud, the NTA maintained the line that the decision to cancel the exam was taken "in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests". The question though, is: does the NTA still enjoy that trust? NEET has been dogged by controversy right from the start, with several States opposing the format. But even after it was rolled out across the country, the NTA, as the agency conducting the exam, has suffered several dents to its credibility, with various charges and controversies coming up with depressing regularity. This includes the 2019 impersonation scam in Tamil Nadu where students used proxies to write the exam; the 2022 controversy of frisking girl examinees in Kerala, and the 2024 paper leak and grace marks controversy.

The K. Radhakrishnan committee, which was constituted to recommend reforms in the examination process, recommended a restructuring of the NTA, and creating strong institutional linkages with State and district authorities in order to produce a secure test administration apparatus. Among others, it also made recommendations for multi-stage testing, hybrid use of papers and computers, and a series of measures to prevent breaches and malpractices. It would be a crime to allow the NTA to continue with its inept conduct of common entrance exams, impacting the future of several lakhs of students. NEET was introduced as a measure to bring into play a single, standardised, and transparent entrance exam for medical admissions. But the transparency that it has so far shown is of an entirely different kind: leaks and breaches of confidentiality.

Elusive peace

Europe must push for a negotiated settlement to the Ukraine war

On May 9, speaking to reporters after the Moscow Victory Day parade, Russia's President Vladimir Putin said the war with Ukraine was "coming to a close", and, for the first time since the war began in February 2022, indicated that he would be willing to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy if talks were aimed at finalising a long-term peace deal. His comments underscore the pressure that he faces, both domestically and on the battlefield, as the war, which he launched as a 'special military operation', drags into its fifth year. Mr. Putin had said in 2022, months after the invasion began, that Russia would do "our best to stop this as soon as possible". Yet, the war continued, with Russian troops making incremental advances in eastern and southern Ukraine. Those gains, however, have now largely stalled. While the frontline has barely shifted this year, both sides have carried out devastating drone and missile strikes. In the early years of the war, the Russian public was largely insulated from its consequences. That is no longer the case. Today, Ukraine is capable of striking deep inside Russian territory. Tax increases, rising prices and a deepening gloom in the business sector have fuelled public frustration, affecting Mr. Putin's approval rating. At the same time, hardline nationalist sections are demanding a more forceful response to Ukraine's attacks, adding to the pressure on the Kremlin.

Russia has so far ruled out a lasting ceasefire. Instead, it seeks a comprehensive peace agreement – Ukraine must remain neutral, withdraw from the Donbas region, sanctions on Russia must be removed and a new security arrangement between Moscow and NATO. While Russia has genuine security concerns, amplified by NATO's unchecked eastward expansion, clinging to maximalist demands while fighting a seemingly endless war will not make Russia stronger. Mr. Putin launched the war expecting a swift victory. His forces have captured over 20% of Ukrainian territory, but at a tremendous cost. It is time that he shifted focus from continuing a war with no clear endpoint to finding a path to peace. Ukraine has demonstrated that it can withstand an invasion by a great power. But Kyiv, too, lacks a realistic pathway to victory. Russia, despite mounting challenges, retains the military capacity to inflict greater damage, and if the war drags on, Kyiv risks losing more territory. Europe must also realise that the Ukraine war has weakened the continent economically and politically, leaving it more dependent on the U.S. even as Washington is drifting away. The four-plus years have shown that there is no military solution to this conflict. What is needed instead is a serious push by all sides toward a negotiated settlement.

Just war, power balance and modern conflict

Rajeev Dhavan

Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India

Alexander Pope's famous line, "Now Europe balanc'd, neither side prevails: For nothing's left in either of the scales", reminds us that peace without war is perhaps best achieved when there is a balance of power. Hugo Grotius's concept of a just war was swallowed by the ambiguities of international law and the realpolitik of national self-interest. Special treaties of 1815 and 1839 guaranteed Switzerland and Belgium protection from attack but provided less protection for the latter. The Hague Convention III of 1907 established procedures requiring a formal declaration of war or an ultimatum before hostilities could begin. The Covenant of the League of the Nations (Article 12(1)) believed that antecedent arbitration or judicial settlement and a three month cooling period would obviate war. The Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) condemned recourse to war and to settle controversies which were prescripted to be achieved by pacific means.

The issue of 'self defence'

There are ambiguities in Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter which, in one interpretation, invalidate the "threat or use of force (not war)" against the territorial integrity or political independence of a state. Was this too limited? Certainly, 'self defence' finds a prominent place in Article 51 of the UN Charter to recognise an "inherent right of individual or collective self defence ..... (against) armed attack".

There are textual differences on anticipatory self defence against any imminent danger of attack. The words of the French text invokes this using the word *"dans le cas où un Membre est l'objet d'une agression armée"* to support the right to self defence before the attack, unlike the Spanish: '*ien caso de ataque armada*', suggesting, as in the English, self defence if the armed attack occurs. This has direct relevance to the U.S. aggression against Iran and Tehran's right of self defence. Article 51 should not be seen as an exception to Article 2(4) seeking to abolish war.

No doubt, collective defence treaties such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are permitted under Article 53, which, in turn, allows NATO to trigger collective self-defence under Article 5 if a member is attacked. This fully explains the remonstrance of NATO countries not to join U.S. President Donald Trump: "This is not our war". However, the United Kingdom provided support to America through the use of its bases, while Spain denied the U.S. the use of its airspace.

This bilateral attack by the U.S. and Israel on Iran was justified by claims that Iran was developing a nuclear bomb, even though its nuclear facilities had been open to international inspection. But the U.S. and Israel want Iran to become defenceless and surrender all its missiles and weaponry as well. If any country should do this, it should be Israel.

Modern geopolitics challenges traditional notions of lawful and just wars

The realities of just wars have been diluted out of any respectable meaning with the fall of the Soviet Union. The balance-of-power protections outlined in Pope's poem have disappeared. The nub of all this is the concept of anticipatory self defence which the U.S. unswervingly has used in its attack on Vietnam, Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Venezuela, and now Iran. Under the doctrine of state responsibility, the U.S. used any excuse to retaliate against the Latin American states in the 19th century if its citizens were threatened claiming that international law sanctioned these because it had the 'responsibility' to protect its citizens.

In the famous Caroline incident of 1837, where an American ship was smashed over the Niagara Falls, the British claimed self defence. America's Daniel Webster (lawyer and diplomat) contemporarily warned against its unchecked disproportionate uses. For Mr. Trump, no law has any meaning. America can no longer claim its role as the peacekeeper of the world.

The West Asia war

But let us turn to the West Asia war. Israel's pretence of self-defence against the state of Iran is thin. Its responses in Gaza, Iran, Lebanon and Syria involve territorial aggression and are illegal and genocidal. Mr. Trump's imperialism is guided by Israel. One recalls seeing a T-shirt in Jerusalem with the legend: "Don't worry America, Israel is behind you". It is difficult to understand how survivors of the Holocaust can inflict such inhumane violence.

At the root of the conflict are three important aspects. The first, the Gulf countries have never had the military prowess to defend their oil interests, property and the excessive lifestyle of governing elites. West Asia was broken into a number of nations whose military defence came from imperial nations – earlier from England, and now America. In this helpless situation, they are unlikely to give up their defence arrangements with the U.S. even though its leaders or even populace do not want adverse relations with neighbouring Iran. They are cautious. Eventually, they will side with the U.S. after Iran's counterattack on their military and energy installations and on the opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Second, the U.S. wants to control, with the Strait firmly under its control. This is the third phase objective of the 'undeclared' war after the first and second phases of the war targeted military and then energy recourses. Mr. Trump wants a negotiated unilateral surrender though his objectives change by the day. If the Strait is to be released from Iran's control, a limited aerial and a ground attack on Kharg Island and southern Iran will alter the war irretrievably.

The third question concerns who will be responsible for the reconstruction of Iran after the conflict ends, and whether reparations will be provided by the U.S., or by China and Russia, to restore the country and the balance of power.

The talks in Islamabad/Pakistan were bound to fail. The conditionalities of both parties were incompatible. The only issue that should have been discussed was the limited logistics of ceasefire. Other issues did not have a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Each issue needed to be discussed, step by step in later meetings. Nuclear energy is resolvable by oversight. Iran was open to inspection but this was defeated in Mr. Trump's first term. Giving up missiles altogether is unreasonable for either side.

Reducing America's military presence in the Gulf and West Asia will take time and require a multi-lateral meeting of the Gulf states. The answer to the Strait of Hormuz is neither Mr. Trump's impending war, nor a negotiation between America and Iran. It requires a multilateral discussion initiated by the United Nations or a consortium of nations, including all affected countries, including China, not just Pakistan as a proxy. They have to join the peace initiative anew. Otherwise it is Munich of 1938 all over again. Pakistan has played its part. A wider initiative is needed to look for a solution not thwarted by conditionalities, proxies, or Mr. Trump's mood and zeal for war.

People and a moral voice

The UN has become meaningless as a peace keeper. Perhaps Mr. Trump wants to lead a U.S.-aligned international council that includes participation from some Gulf countries. We are also witnessing the WTO, which was created to defend America's imperial economic interest, descending into chaos along with climate change treaties.

The post-World War II which envisaged a human rights-based democratic order has been exposed as a moral façade for global predation and has failed to protect people humanely, while providing moral excuses for imperial actors. Too many sins are created in the name of democracy and human rights.

But to return to the concept of a just war, unsupported by a balance of power to preserve world peace: the concept of a just war has become meaningless except as a much-needed moral voice. This moral voice rests with the people of the world – all of us, not our rulers.

The Xi-Trump summit — shadow boxing on Iran

Mahesh Sachdev

Retired Indian Ambassador with an interest in West Asia and oil matters

An American President stuck in an unwinnable and unpopular war, undertakes a risky trip to Beijing to seek Chinese intervention for a desperately needed off-ramp. The hosts feign sympathy and help, albeit in a layered, unhurried manner. They are subtle and discreet in proposing a hefty quid pro quo. Over the next few months, things are sorted out: the White House disengages from a sticky mess, quietly letting the "vanquished" opponent prevail. Long sceptical and often hostile, Washington becomes a reluctant believer in China's "peaceful rise".

The 1972 summit

Is this a likely pre-script for Donald Trump's visit to Beijing that begins today? It may turn out to be. But it does sum up the first United States-China bilateral Summit in February 1972, when a Vietnam-mauled President Richard Nixon met Chairman Mao. As the post-visit Shanghai Communiqué panned out, the U.S. recognised the long-reviled Communist People's Republic as the sole China, gave it a P5 status, and threw Taiwan under the bus. Subsequent western capital and technology surge propelled China's phenomenal economic and geostrategic take-off.

In return, China abandoned Hanoi, enabling the U.S. to extricate itself from a haemorrhaging war. Vietnam, too, emerged as a victorious and unified nation. So, while other stakeholders benefited, China hit a jackpot.

Half a century later, history may be tantalisingly close to repeating itself in Beijing on the first such visit by an American President since 2017 for a summit. It would have a comprehensive agenda, from bilateral (trade/tariff, economic, tech-transfer, and Taiwan) to various global issues.

The U.S.-Iran war is likely to figure prominently in Beijing because an early face-saving exit from the West Asian imbroglio is currently Mr. Trump's top priority. The Iran war has had huge economic and geostrategic costs, including to his legacy.

Beijing summit tests diplomacy over Iran and global geopolitical order

Waging a clever asymmetric strategy, Iran has converted a military debacle into a strategic win with a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, staunching crude supplies and causing economic pain globally. Its refusal to capitulate to Mr. Trump's conditions has denied him an off-ramp, denting his approval at home as he faces an uphill battle in the upcoming Congressional midterm election.

China as Iran's anchor

China is Iran's largest economic partner, buying over 80% of its oil exports, estimated at up to $45 billion in 2025. The additional non-oil bilateral trade is estimated to be over $9 billion and is suspected to include many of the crucially needed Chinese war materials. Pakistan, an 'ironclad' friend, keeps China informed about the U.S.-Iran negotiations. The Iranian Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, visited Beijing on May 6 for bilateral discussions, without the traditional joint communiqué. These factors make China the most prominent foreign determinant for Iran, with Beijing the go-to destination with a key to the Iranian imbroglio. Thus, despite Mr. Trump's assertion to the contrary, he may need Chinese President Xi Jinping's help to cobble a modus vivendi with Iran.

Against this backdrop, observers discern several competing tendencies during the last week: the Trump team was keen to finalise the negotiation road map with Iran before the Beijing Summit to keep China out.

However, Iran delivered an uncompromising response after 10 days, which was rejected by Mr. Trump. The U.S. "Operation Freedom" to jump-start the Strait of Hormuz navigation was a non-starter. The Trump administration has officially "terminated" the Iran war to avoid running afoul of the War Powers Act. Suspended negotiations, problematic military option, escalating oil prices, and the incoming Hajj have created a perfect maelstrom for Mr. Trump's Beijing foray. Two tendencies afford an insight into the ever-inscrutable and minimalistic Chinese mindset on this issue.

Following Mr. Araghchi's visit to China, Tehran's position has hardened perceptibly on contentious issues such as Hormuz, nuclear enrichment, missiles and the proxies. Apart from highlighting its mistrust of Mr. Trump, Tehran has also upped its demands on reparations, security guarantees, defreezing assets, closing the American military bases in the region and a ceasefire in Lebanon and Yemen. Simultaneously, China and Russia have raised the ante by threatening to veto even the toned-down U.S.-backed draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution on the Hormuz blockade.

A possible strategy

While the Summit scenario is still evolving, Beijing's nod-and-wink to Iranian defiance indicates a hardball strategy for the Trump-Xi summit. China seems to perceive that prolonged or deepened Gulf tensions would enable it to extract more American concessions on bilateral issues in return for sorting out Iranian obduracy. It may ask Mr. Trump to yield on tariffs and sanctions, technology denial and Taiwan. Citing the Iranian trust deficit, Beijing may cynically carve a role for itself either as a mediator-guarantor or through a UNSC Resolution. The proposed unwinding could be phased over the next few months.

It remains to be seen if Mr. Trump, a self-styled consummate transactional dealmaker, has a counterstrategy of his own for a potential grand bargain: Chinese help for an Iranian off-ramp in return for minimal concessions. Otherwise, he may sell out like Henry Kissinger, who sheepishly admitted later, "I think if we drink enough mao tai [a potent Chinese liquor], we can solve anything."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEET and the NRI aspirant

I am writing this letter not only as a NEET UG 2026 candidate but also as an Indian student currently residing in the United Kingdom who travelled internationally to appear for this examination, only to watch it collapse because of failures entirely outside the control of students. I had secured opportunities to study medicine at reputed European universities. Despite that, I chose to defer those opportunities because I wanted to pursue medicine through India's system. To do this, I travelled to India at considerable personal and financial cost as there are no NEET centres in the U.K. This journey took place during a period of heightened anxiety surrounding international movement. For months, I studied relentlessly, often for 16 hours a day. What makes this issue even more important is the current NMC regulation requiring NEET qualification even for foreign medical admissions. Students abroad are legally compelled to depend on an examination system that has repeatedly faced allegations of compromise and cancellation. We have no alternative route despite having opportunities elsewhere. I believe this perspective deserves national attention because the burden on overseas Indian students has largely gone unreported.

Vedika Rai,
Buckinghamshire, U.K.

Austerity appeal

The Prime Minister's call to reduce fossil fuel use — though somewhat belated — can help develop pathways to cut greenhouse gas emissions from petrol and diesel vehicles used for short-distance commuting. Walking and cycling have largely been forgotten in Indian cities, mainly due to the lack of proper footpaths and cycling lanes. The Centre should allocate special funds for developing such infrastructure. Since political parties understand the reasons behind the appeal, they are unlikely to gain much mileage by politicising the issue.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the Editorial, "Split wide open" (May 13, 2026), should have read, "It appears that the Palaniswami group ... of the 1985 anti-defection law in case the dissidents violate the whip *to vote* against the government."

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The 'cinematisation' of politics

Bhuvanesh Chandar

Throughout the recent election season in Tamil Nadu, there was an unmissable air of restlessness and frenzy among youth voters. Most youth – the largest share of the vote bank that led to actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) winning over 100 seats – seem to have looked at the elections as one that would lead to "a change."

Tamil Nadu, of course, has seen its share of youth revolution in politics. The very Dravidian government that Mr. Vijay defeated was built by a student political movement more than six decades ago. But unlike the 1960s, this new "change" wasn't built up through protests against an oppressive force; it largely transpired on social media, in the minds of youth, amid a pandemic of political indifference.

A narrative of change

During the election campaign, two statements largely captured the opposing viewpoints netizens had about Mr. Vijay's TVK; one was that "Vijay doesn't understand that politics isn't cinema" and two, "we need Vijay because we need a change." There's more to these statements than what meets the eye. The question is not whether politics is cinema but about how politics needs to become cinema, which Mr. Vijay understands. And change? The youth don't necessarily crave for a change – what they crave for is a narrative; some purpose that empowers them with direction.

Sociologically speaking, life in 2026 cannot get any more routine for a youth of the State. They work a nine-to-five job, and endlessly scroll through various social media platforms. Beyond personal goals, life hardly allows one a purpose, let alone a larger-than-life vision for a revolution. But cinema does. Cinema offers an augmented reality where purpose is celebrated. This is why we live in a time when escapist cinema is so frenzied, and political news consumption has declined.

Throughout the election season, a large chunk of TVK followers were repeatedly criticised as "*tharkuri*," meaning 'imbecile', for their alleged lack of political insight or their inability to articulate why they wanted to vote for Mr. Vijay. "*Anna* [older brother] will do us good," they said. How or from what? They never bothered, as was evident from the many videos that went viral. However, it would be unfair to blame these youths, as what we are seeing is political indifference and political illiteracy that came from the State's inability to educate the youth in their language. Depoliticised campuses have long been the cause of this aversion to politics.

This lack of purpose is why propaganda on social media and movies work – audiences need to feel a win, and cinema offers a narrative. And a narrative is what the politician in Mr. Vijay – a face they have seen so often serving them with a purpose – offered them when he took to the stage and tagged the government of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) as "*theeya sakthi*" (evil force). The narrative was clear. Mr. Vijay had to win, and it didn't matter why the DMK had to lose.

Need for dramatic change

This need for a purpose through a narrative has now reshaped politics as we know it. Mr. Vijay, to his credit, seems to have learnt this from his decades in the film industry – for an actor to win, politics must become his playground; politics must become cinema. Which is why Mr. Vijay's election campaign, which ranged from urging children to ask their parents to vote for the TVK to repeatedly symbolising the DMK as a villain, seemed straight out of the climax of a summer blockbuster. If anything, the DMK did not lose to an actor who sold dreams, but to a strategist who offered the satisfaction of a social media campaign win. This is also why Mr. Vijay's victory feels so personal to most of his voters. What they have done is essentially beat the force that was unofficially declared unbeatable.

For the interest of these youth 'audiences' in politics to sustain, politics needs to become more. They need to see variety in politics, and stability can seem boring. Development shouldn't just improve upon something; it should demolish something pre-existing, for the lack of dramatic flair would simply be akin to death.

There must be development, but through a steady supply of 'something different'. Because "we need a change." In fact, if anything, this statement from supporters of the TVK says enough about the crisis of 'purposelessness'. For example, many TVK supporters wished for a government change due to the many crimes against women in the last five years. This is one definition of 'change' they have attested to. Now, all one must do to check if this was a genuine concern is to see if similar social media campaigns hold the TVK accountable should there be crimes against women during their reign. If not, perhaps, like most election manifestos these days, 'change' is just a pre-election commodity. Crimes against women do not need a mere change in government – it needs a government that acknowledges the deep-seated patriarchy in society and takes steps towards abolishing the socio-political factors that lead to sexual assaults. Until then, a change in this regard wouldn't be concrete.

How Mr. Vijay and the TVK define this victory and govern in the years to come remains to be seen. For the social media warriors who voted for them, this victory is a respite under the punishing sun. Who cares if there's a happily ever after? We don't bother about what happens to the hero after the climax.

bhuvanesh.chandar@thehindu.co.in

The youth don't necessarily crave for a change – what they crave for is a narrative; some purpose that empowers them with direction

The law does not favour AIADMK rebels

The divide needs to be evaluated under the anti-defection law

STATE OF PLAY

K.Venkataramanan

As many as 25 of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)'s 47 legislators voted in favour of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government in the confidence vote moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. This has further deepened the crisis within the party that finished third in the recent Assembly election. The party's general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, and 21 of his supporters voted against the TVK government.

A key question is whether the dissidents have incurred disqualification under the anti-defection law. Mr. Palaniswami is in an unenviable position. If he seeks the rebels' disqualification, the move may lead to a formal split in the party, and may result in byelections that would lead to further marginalisation. On the other hand, even if he doesn't, the other faction, led by former ministers S.P. Velumani and C. V. Shanmugam, may gain the upper hand within the party structure. However, what stands in his favour is that the dissidents are in no position to save themselves from disqualification, as they do not have the requisite two-thirds' strength to claim that they have merged with another party. The 2023 judgment of a Constitution Bench on related questions arising from the anti-defection law is also not in their favour.

The verdict in *Subash Desai vs. Principal Secretary to the Governor*, delivered in May 2023, deals squarely with the fate of dissident legislators who are numerically larger than the MLAs loyal to the original party leadership. A key

ruling in the judgment is that it is the political party and not the legislature party that appoints its whip and gives the direction to vote in a particular manner or abstain. Therefore, any claim by another faction that it has its own whip and its own direction to vote cannot be countenanced by the Speaker. The second principle in the judgment is that the numerical strength of respective factions is irrelevant. "The percentage of members in each faction is irrelevant to the determination of whether a defence to disqualification is made out," the five-judge Bench said. However, the Court also recognised that the Speaker may have to determine which of the two factions constitutes the original party and he may examine the party's own constitution and other regulations that spell out its structure. "The Speaker must not base their decision as to which group constitutes the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the Legislative Assembly," it said. The structure of leadership outside the House is also a relevant consideration.

The Speaker's determination on which group constitutes the party is only a *prima facie* finding, and would not have any impact on the Election Commission's power to adjudicate the question under Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, which deals with recognition to parties and allotment of symbols.

Mr. Palaniswami will have to decide whether to seek the disqualification of those who voted against him. The 10th Schedule gives a political party the option of condoning such a vote within 15 days. In 2017, he did not seek action against 11 AIADMK legislators of the O. Panneerselvam faction when they voted against him. A related question is whether a whip was issued and received by all members of the AIADMK. In the 2017 example, Mr. Panneerselvam and his supporters claimed that they had not received it as they were not part of the group of MLAs housed in a resort by the party leadership. Under the rules governing the question of disqualification in the Assembly, each party has to submit a list of its members and designations within 30 days of the first sitting of the House. It is not known whether this was done. The appointment of a member as the Whip, as well as the existence of a 'direction' to the members on manner of voting (the word 'whip' is not used in the Tenth Schedule) and its communication to all members will all be questions of facts that may require adjudication.

The AIADMK members who voted for the TVK have rendered themselves vulnerable to disqualification by violating a party direction. However, they may depend on the Speaker's indulgence in not acting on disqualification petitions, if any, and may raise disputes on facts such as which of them is the authority and whether one was issued at all. The Speaker will have to bear in mind the law laid down by the Court while deciding these questions.

China's economic strengths now rival that of the U.S.

Beijing continues its economic rise and has now become a diplomatic powerhouse

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

U.S. President Donald Trump commenced his highly anticipated three-day visit to China on May 13, amid the ongoing Israel-U.S. war with Iran, and a year after Mr. Trump imposed steep import tariffs on several countries. China was one of the countries on which the U.S. imposed the highest tariffs.

Mr. Trump's previous visit to Beijing was in November 2017 during his first term as U.S. President. Interestingly, it was a few months after his 2017 visit that he started a trade war with China by levying high import tariffs on various products to fight the latter's "unfair trade practices" and address the huge trade imbalance between the two countries. China retaliated with its own tariffs.

Though Mr. Trump escalated this trade war between the two countries in his second term with a further increase in tariffs, he will be visiting China after having backed down following Beijing's retaliatory tariffs and steps taken by it to restrict vital rare earth exports to the U.S.

A look at multiple economic indicators over the years shows that China is catching up at a steady pace with the U.S., considered the world's lone superpower both economically and militarily since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, China's economic strength has grown dramatically to rival that of the U.S.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the U.S. in 1990 was about 15 times the size of China's economy. By 2025, according to the International Monetary Fund's data, the U.S. GDP was only 1.5 times larger than that of China **(Chart 1)**.

Despite growing into an economy comparable in size to the U.S., China has managed to maintain a strong GDP growth rate of at least 5% even after it became a $10 trillion economy in 2014, barring the exceptions of 2020 and 2022. Since becoming a $10 trillion economy in 2000, the U.S. economy's growth rate last crossed the 3% mark in 2005. The only exception was 2021 because of the negative growth caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the year before.

The gap is even starker when it comes to labour productivity growth – that is, output per worker. Besides being far higher than the U.S.'s, China's growth rate of labour productivity is at a level that the U.S. has not come close to in the past 25 years **(Chart 2)**.

In many key export sectors, China now occupies the place once held by the U.S. While China's share in global exports across sectors such as electronics and minerals has grown, the U.S.'s share has seen a gradual decline **(Chart 3)**. China's share in global vehicle exports has grown from less than 1% in 1995 to over 13% in 2024.

China has also massively increased its spending on R&D, which assumes significance in the backdrop of the race between the two countries in AI. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China overtook the U.S. in R&D expenditure for the first time in 2024. The U.S. spent $781.8 billion while China spent $785.9 billion, which is a 20-fold jump from the $41 billion spent in 2000. Between 2000 and 2024, Beijing's share in global R&D expenditure increased by 23 percentage points while that of the U.S. declined by 9.71 percentage points **(Chart 4)**.

The Asian giant is using its economic growth to increase its diplomatic influence. According to AidData, China was the world's largest official creditor in 2023, having lent about $140 billion to public and private sector borrowers. The U.S. is the largest recipient of China's official sector credit. Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index ranked Beijing's 'diplomatic influence' and 'economic relations' higher than those of the U.S. for 2025.

Tipping the scales

The data for the charts were sourced from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labour Organisation, Harvard Growth Lab's Atlas of Economic Complexity and World Intellectual Property Organisation

CHART 1: The Gross Domestic Product in current prices

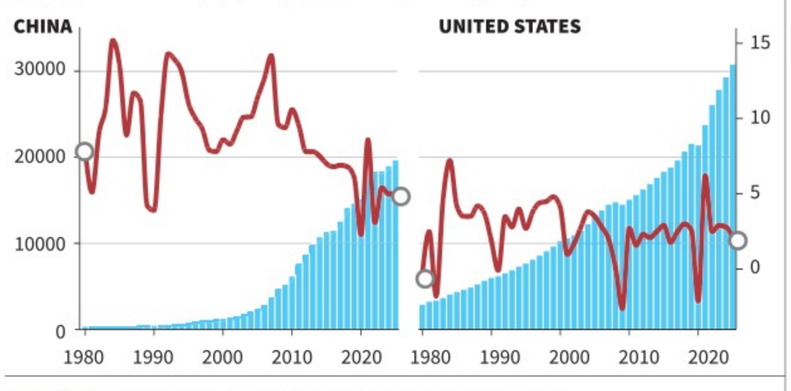


CHART 2: Annual growth rate of output per worker. Figures in %

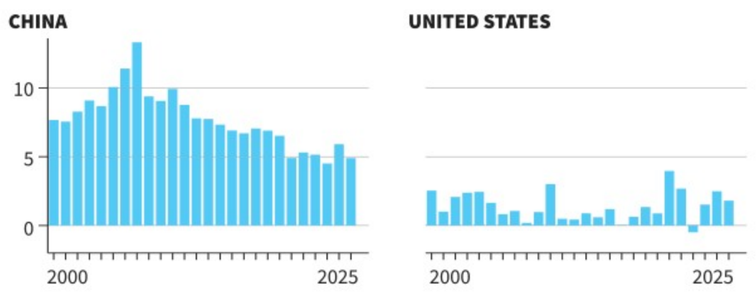
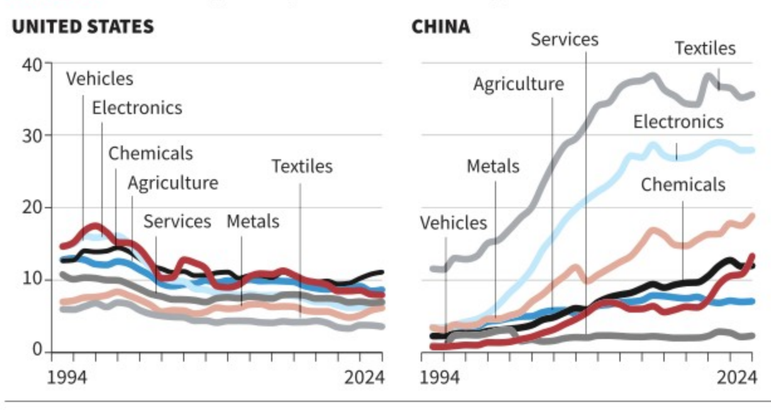


CHART 3: The share in global exports for select items. Figures in %



A comparision of China and U.S.'s GDP since 1980 (Figures in $ billion)

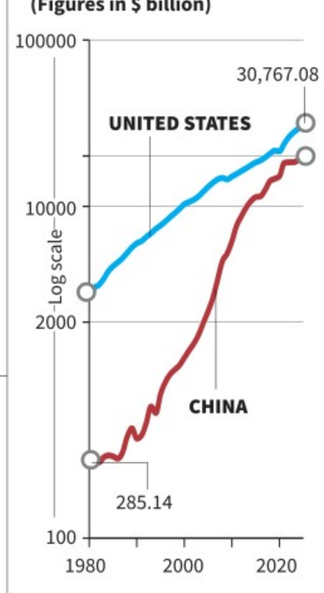
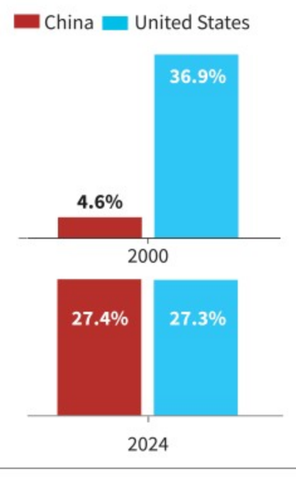


CHART 4: The share in global Research and Development spending



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1976

Archipelago status for Andaman to be sought

New Delhi, May 13: India will continue to try in world forums for the archipelago status for Andaman which will entitle it to exercise control over the 12-mile territorial sea and enjoy rights in regard to living and non-living objects in the 200-mile economic zone around the island.

Mr. H.R. Gokhale, Union Law Minister, who has just returned here after attending the New York conference on the law of the sea, said to-day that the Indian stand on the rights of the coastal States on archipelago has not been accepted. India, he said, would continue to work through bilateral talks, to secure acceptance for its viewpoint. The big powers, he noted, had combined to deprive the coastal countries of their rights in regard to their islands and were prepared to treat only the archipelago States as an independent entity. "It is a very vital issue for us and we are not happy about the position that has emerged so far. We will continue to fight," he said.

About the outcome of the New York conference, Mr. Gokhale mentioned that on the positive side was the near-universal acceptance of the idea of the territorial water (with the limit extended to 12 miles) and that of the economic zone 1200 miles beyond the territorial waters. On the negative side, he listed, besides the differences over archipelagos, disagreement over the rights of the landlocked countries. India and some others wanted the landlocked countries to have access to the sea, though transit arrangements could be made only through negotiations with the coastal States on reciprocal basis. Some others were not prepared to recognise this right.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1926

Merchandise marks bill

London, May 12: The House of Commons, by 221 votes to 65 passed the second reading of the Merchandise Marks Act, which Sir P. Cunliffe-Lister defined as enabling the purchaser to know whether he was buying British products, British agricultural produce and Empire produce.

Mr. Sidney Webb moved the rejection on the ground that the Bill would create obstacles to the importation of certain classes of goods, increase prices, and encourage monopolies.

From Page One

Govt. doubles import duty on gold, silver

Industry players, economists, and investment advisors have said that the decision is not likely to impact Indians' demand for gold, and would instead increase smuggling,

"Our consistent position is that hiking import duties rarely curbs gold imports – it merely inflates prices," the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council said in a statement. "Despite gold prices doubling recently, imports have not declined proportionally. Such measures often fuel smuggling and escalate export costs."

This sentiment was echoed by Sachin Sawrikar, founder and managing partner at Artha Bharat Investment Managers, who termed the import duty hike as a "blunt instrument that history tells us rarely achieves its intended purpose."

"India's appetite for precious metals is structural, not cyclical; it is woven into savings culture, festive demand, and portfolio behaviour across hundreds of millions of households," Mr. Sawrikar cautioned. "When the price of the legal channel rises this steeply, a well-established informal trade, call it grey-market or smuggled supply, simply fills the gap."

Another fear among experts is the impact this decision would have on the domestic industry and all those it employs.

"Trying to micromanage consumer and industry behaviour via trade policy has substantial trade offs that we have to be careful about," Rahul Ahluwalia, Founder-Director of Foundation for Economic Development, said. "In this case, it may negatively affect employment and exports in the jewellery sector and the ability of Indians to invest in one of the best performing asset classes at a time of global uncertainty."

CBI arrests 5, conducts raids in NEET leak case

Several other suspects are currently being examined, the CBI said. The agency is probing whether the brothers from Jaipur had procured the "guess paper", in which about 120 questions matched the actual question paper, from the Gurugram-based ayurvedic medicine student Yash Yadav. It is suspected that the paper was passed on to a counselling agent in Sikar, Rajasthan, from where it was sold to a large number of people through encrypted messaging applications.

Earlier, the Rajasthan Special Operations Group (SOG) picked up 15 people for their suspected roles in the paper leak. On the SOG's request, the Nashik Crime Branch had detained Shubham Khairnar, a 30-year-old Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery student from Nandagaon. He had allegedly bought the "guess paper" and sold it for profit.

The CBI registered the case on Tuesday following a written complaint from the Department of Higher Education, Education Ministry.

"Based on emerging leads, further searches and investigative actions are under way. During the searches and arrests, several incriminating materials and electronic devices, including mobile phones, have been seized. The agency is also coordinating with the Special Operations Group, Rajasthan, which had conducted a preliminary enquiry in the case," said the agency, adding that the leads are being followed through "extensive technical and forensic analysis".

In Maharashtra, a senior police officer from Ahilyanagar said the CBI had sought assistance to track Mr. Lokhande and take him into custody. "I have no idea about the link between the arrests in Pune and Nashik, or the detained person's role. We are not part of investigation," he said.

So far, three people have been arrested from Maharashtra. On Tuesday, the Nashik Crime Branch had detained Mr. Khairnar from Indiranagar. He was later remanded in CBI custody for two days.

Mr. Lokhande, a native of Mahegaon Mahaduk in Rahuri, graduated in BAMS from Mangaluru and has been practising in Pune. The role of Ms. Waghmare is not yet clear. However, the Pune Police suspect she may have links with Mr. Lokhande. They have seized her phone and laptop.

3 tribal church leaders killed in Manipur

Those who lost their lives were TBAI president Reverend Vumthang Sitlhou, finance secretary Rev. Kaigoulun Lhouvum, and Pastor Paogoulen Sitlhou.

The TBAI president had recently led a delegation of Kuki Christian leaders to adjoining Nagaland to broker peace between the Kukis and Tangkhul Nagas in the restive Kamjong and Ukhrul districts of Manipur.

While three of the four injured were rushed to a private hospital in Imphal for treatment, a fifth survivor, who managed to escape, was later tracked and rescued from the hills, an official told *The Hindu*.

"Some eight to 10 armed men are suspected to have opened fire on two vehicles with automatic weapons, most likely AK-47 rifles. They were likely hiding in the hills," the official said.

According to a statement issued by the Indian Army, joint columns of security forces assisted in evacuating the injured to the nearest medical facility. "The joint columns are undertaking extensive search and area domination operations," an official monitoring Manipur said.

Khera appears before Crime Branch for questioning

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Pawan Khera on Wednesday appeared before the Assam Police's Crime Branch in Guwahati for questioning in connection with a case filed against him by Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, the wife of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Mr. Khera had claimed before the elections that Ms. Sharma held multiple passports and possessed assets abroad. She rejected the allegations and responded with a criminal case, accusing him of defamation, forgery, and criminal conspiracy.

"Mr. Khera arrived with his legal team and is participating in the questioning process. Officials are examining the basis of the allegations and the supporting material presented by him," Congress's legal representative Reetam Singh said. He stated that Mr. Khera was not expected to be arrested as the Supreme Court had granted him anticipatory bail on April 30.

Senior Congress leader Ripun Bora, who visited the Crime Branch office, said Mr. Khera would leave for Delhi after the inquiry.

CBI Director Praveen Sood gets another one-year extension

Tenure to extend for a year beyond May 24; Centre's decision comes after panel meeting on Tuesday; Rahul accuses govt. of 'institutional capture'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director, Praveen Sood, has been given another one-year extension, as approved on Wednesday by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.

The ACC order stated that Mr. Sood's tenure has been extended for a year beyond May 24, 2026. The 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was earlier granted one-year extension in May 2025 after completion of his two-year term as CBI chief.

On Tuesday, a high-powered committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met to decide on the appointment of the next CBI Director. During the meeting, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi submitted a dissent note, accusing the government of "institutional capture" of the agency to target political opponents, journalists, and critics.

Praveen Sood was earlier granted one-year extension in May 2025 after completion of his two-year term as CBI chief. PTI

Mr. Gandhi shared his dissent note on his X handle. "Your government has repeatedly misused the CBI, intended to be India's premier investigative agency, to target political opponents, journalists, and critics. It is to prevent such institutional capture that the Leader of Opposition is included in the Selection Committee. Regrettably, you have continued to deny me any meaningful role in the process," he said.

He said despite repeated written requests, he was not provided with the self-appraisal or 360-degree reports of eligible candidates.

"Instead, I was expected to examine the appraisal records of 69 candidates for the first time during the Committee meeting. The 360-degree reports were denied to me outright. A detailed review of these records is crucial to assess each candidate's history and performance," said Mr. Gandhi.

'Iran is working on a Hormuz protocol to cover safety costs'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister says the Strait of Hormuz will remain open to ships linked to India

Iran has provided "free of charge services" to international shipping in the Strait of Hormuz for decades but is now working on a "protocol" to include a financial component covering costs it incurs to make navigation safe in the Persian Gulf region, said Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi here on Wednesday.

Speaking to a select group of journalists at the Embassy of Iran, Mr. Gharibabadi, who is here for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting, avoided naming the UAE directly and said "a neighbouring country that is also a member of the BRICS" is thwarting a joint statement at the meeting by trying to introduce language that seeks to condemn Iran's military strategy against U.S. and Israeli attacks.

"So far, Iran has provided free-of-charge services in the Strait of Hormuz. In fact, these services were provided by both Oman and Iran. Now we are working on a protocol and arrangement covering navigation, pollution of the Strait and rescue (in case of accidents). The protocol has not been finalised yet and we are working at expert level," he said.

He said that though the arrangement will be "non-discriminatory", Iran will not cooperate with countries that are found to be supporting the U.S. and Israel. He accused the two countries of starting the war on February 28 amid negotiations on Tehran's nuclear capabilities.

Mr. Gharibabadi said the Strait of Hormuz will remain open to ships linked to India, but said marine traffic will be affected if the U.S. resumed its attacks on Iran. He said Iran is not a member of 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and can go ahead with its "protocol" on the chokepoint. The remarks came just days after U.S. President Donald Trump rejected Iran's proposals calling them "totally unacceptable".

SC questions HC ruling on law college attendance norms

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed serious reservations over a November 3, 2025, ruling of the Delhi High Court, which held that law students should not be barred from appearing in examinations solely on account of attendance shortages. The court said that such a view risked turning law college hostels into "just boarding and lodging facilities", with students no longer feeling compelled to regularly attend classes.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi said it would "lay down the correct law" while issuing a notice on a plea filed by Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) challenging the High Court judgment.

The Bench, however, declined to stay the operation of the ruling. "We are not suspending that order. We will hear the matter, decide and lay down the correct position of law," the Bench observed.

The Bench, however, declined to stay the operation of the High Court ruling.

During the hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the university, contended that the Delhi High Court ruling had effectively diluted attendance requirements and was posing significant challenges for law colleges across the country.

"The High Court says no attendance is required anywhere. People don't want to go to college. I am wondering why we went to college then," Mr. Rohatgi said.

Don't be 'self-centred', RTE is for benefit of children: SC says in TET review case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Court notes it had only reinforced the requirement of a minimum qualification

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked teachers not to be "self-centered" and think only about their job security, but spare a thought for children in need of quality education, a right protected under the Constitution and the Right to Education Act.

The court's oral observations came while hearing a series of petitions filed by the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and teachers' associations from West Bengal and Kerala, seeking a review of a September 2025 judgment requiring in-service teachers of Classes 1 to 8 in non-minority schools across the country to clear the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) in two years or be "compulsorily retired".

Tamil Nadu had argued that the judgment affected about four lakh teachers in the State alone. If implemented on the ground, the State would have to bear witness to "classrooms without teachers", it had contended.

"The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act [Right to Education Act. 2009] exists for the children. Do not be self-centered to say 'I will only get orders from the court protecting my security of tenure, but will not think about the children'," Justice Dipankar Datta, heading a Bench comprising Justice Manmohan, addressed the review petitioners.

Justice Datta referred to Section 23(2) of the 2009 Act, which gave teachers five years' time to get the "mandatory" qualification of TET in cases of shortage of trained teachers and the inadequacy of teacher education institutions.

It gave a further leeway by allowing teachers appointed or in position as of March 31, 2015, and who did not possess the required minimum academic qualifications, to acquire them within four years.

Additional Solicitor-General Vikramjit Banerjee for Uttar Pradesh, senior advocates A.M. Singhvi, Rakesh Dwivedi for Madhya Pradesh and other advocates, including Tomy Chacko for Deseeya Adhyapaka Parishad (NTU Kerala), said the retrospective application of TET requirement violated the rights of experienced teachers who were already in service for decades, and performing well in their jobs.

Justice Manmohan said the court had merely reinforced the statutory requirement of a minimum qualification (TET clearance) for teachers.

The court reserved the review pleas for judgment.

Centre clears funds for semi high-speed rail project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved a semi high-speed double line rail project linking Sarkhej in Ahmedabad to Dholera, which lies about 100 km away, for a total cost of ₹20,667 crore.

"It will be Indian Railways' first semi high-speed project, planned with indigenously developed technology," the Railway Ministry said, adding that it will serve as a pioneer initiative, acting as a reference model for the phased expansion of semi high-speed rail across the country.

The project will facilitate faster travel between Ahmedabad, the Dholera special investment region, the upcoming Dholera Airport, and the NHMC. It will also enhance connectivity to 284 villages, with a total population of about 5 lakh, and expand the existing network of Indian Railways by about 134 km.

Fix panic buttons, tracking devices in public transport vehicles: SC to States

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed all States and Union Territories to urgently implement the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles (CMV) Rules, 1989 mandating the installation of speed governors, vehicle location tracking devices and emergency panic buttons in passenger transport vehicles.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan observed that these safety requirements were being widely flouted across the country.

"We direct all States and Union Territories to strictly enforce the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 by ensuring the installation of vehicle location tracking devices and panic buttons in a time-bound and verifiable manner in both new and existing public service vehicles," the Bench said.

Vehicle makers must be told to make sure that panic buttons are installed, the court said.

The directions were issued in a public interest litigation filed by Coimbatore-based surgeon S. Rajasekaran, who drew attention to India's alarming rate of road fatalities and the "utter callous and casual attitude" of State authorities towards road safety measures.

Senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal, assisting the court as *amicus curiae*, submitted that according to data placed before Parliament in 2024, speed-limiting devices had been installed in less than 5% of transport vehicles, while vehicle location tracking devices were present in fewer than 1% of such vehicles. Describing the figures as "disturbing", the Bench directed that fitness certificates or permits should not be issued to public service vehicles found in violation. It ordered States and Union Territories to file fresh status reports indicating compliance.

The court also directed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to hold consultations with vehicle manufacturers to ensure all new vehicles were fitted with speed-limiting devices, vehicle location tracking devices, and panic buttons at the manufacturing stage itself, while States were ordered to retrofit existing vehicles with these devices.

It further directed States and Union Territories to integrate compliance data with the centralised VAHAN portal for real-time monitoring.

Curb dissemination of porn through apps, HC tells Google, Apple

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked Google and Apple to strictly act against the dissemination of obscene pornographic content through mobile applications hosted on their online platforms.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said that in the present legal framework, the social media intermediaries have to play the "most vital role". It also asked the Centre's Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to check the dissemination of such content.

The court was hearing a petition by Rubika Thapa.

"We can't permit a whole generation of the country to be ruined. We understand all kinds of freedom under Article 19 [of the Constitution] but that does not mean that we allow [dissemination of vulgar content]," the court orally remarked.

The court also issued notice to the Central government, Google LLC, Apple, and CERT-In on the petition and sought an action-taken report from the platforms.

The plea highlighted that the offending mobile applications were easily available to children.

‘Unfair, stressful’: students in a rage over NEET saga

With no re-test date announced and over 20 lakh students in limbo, many grapple with uncertainty, pressure and possibility of delayed admissions; describing the cancellation a major failure of examination system, they seek free transport for the re-test; calling for strict action, educators, unions say aspirants should be counselled and given time to recover before reappearing for the re-test

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With no re-test date announced for the cancelled National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), students, parents and educators have expressed anger, frustration, and anxiety over additional study load and pressure, and the possibility of delayed admissions resulting in less time for course work.

While they welcomed the exemption of fee for the retest, many called the cancellation a major failure of the examination system.

Over 20 lakh students have to take the re-test for more than 10 medical courses, competing for over 2.5 lakh seats.

Describing the entire episode as unfair and stressful, several people are demanding transport support for students when they retake the exam.

The Tamil Nadu Consumers Federation said that free bus and train travel should be provided to NEET aspirants. Students travel beyond their own States, or districts within their respective States, to take the exam, bearing significant expenses to appear for the test, the federation’s general secretary, K. Thirunavukkarasu, said. “This time, they will have to be compensated for their travel expenses.”

P.D. Satya Sree, who completed her Class 12 this year and had been preparing for NEET, said the cancellation had left her shocked and emotionally drained.

“Not just me, many of my friends who appeared for NEET this time are struggling to process this. We don’t know how to start preparing all over again,” she said, adding that the uncertainty and pressure has taken a heavy emotional toll on students for various reasons.

Uncertain future: Members of a student organisation protesting against the cancellation of NEET-UG in Hyderabad on Wednesday. NAGARA GOPAL

Every mark matters

Albin Benoy, a student from Odisha, said the cancellation has come as a blow. “With the examination now set to be conducted again, I do not know how I can return to Kerala and resume coaching at such short notice,” he said.

Students were also anxious about the nature of the repeat examination. “There is concern about the difficulty level of the retest. In a highly competitive exam like NEET, even a single mark can determine the college a student gets, and shape their entire future,” Mr. Benoy said.

For Mounika U., a long-term aspirant, the cancellation has been emotionally devastating. “Months and years of my preparation have gone to waste because of a system failure. I did nothing wrong,” she said. Although she is willing to take the examination again, she questioned who could guarantee a fair and transparent process.

Describing the cancellation of the test as an injustice, particularly to those who were expecting top ranks based on the provisional answer key released shortly after the test, George Thomas, director of Brilliant Study Centre at Pala in Kerala, said that the uncertainty has also created severe financial anxiety for families who had already stretched their resources for coaching, tuition, and hostel expenses.

A NEET(UG) trainer from Secunderabad, G. Vijay Kumar, said the alleged paper leak and subsequent cancellation would have serious consequences, particularly for long-term aspirants. “It is difficult to counsel such young students when a prestigious national entrance examination itself becomes a failure. There is immense pressure and an emotional impact on students,” he said. Aspirants should be counselled and given adequate time to recover before reappearing for the examination, Mr. Kumar added.

‘Abolish the exam’

The All India Students’ Federation Andhra Pradesh vice-president, M. Saikumar, has demanded permanent abolition of the nationwide NEET.

He also called for immediate closure of the “incompetent” National Testing Agency, holding it responsible for repeated failures.

Protests were held near the Telangana Secretariat by the Student Islamic Organisation of India along with several aspirants. “Repeated failures send a message that the government is incapable of conducting the examination in a fair and transparent manner,” they said.

The Students’ Federation of India (Telangana), which led demonstrations in Hyderabad, termed the controversy an “administrative failure”. Its leader, T. Nagaraju, said the present scandal was a repeat of past incidents because strict action had not been taken after the 2024 paper leak.

“While the officials, middlemen, and coaching mafia responsible for the leak must be arrested immediately, the demand by individual States to conduct their own entrance examinations is important. Policies that are helping education become a corporate business must also be withdrawn,” the student leaders said.

(With inputs from State bureaux)

NTA, govt. did not want to cancel NEET in 2024, cited student welfare in the SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A decision taken by the National Testing Agency (NTA) with the approval of the Centre to scrap NEET-UG, upsetting the future of over 22 lakh students nationwide, is diametrically opposite to what it had said and promised in the Supreme Court amid the backlash over the NEET (UG) paper leak in 2024.

Two years ago, the Centre and the NTA had told the court cancelling the test would be a drastic and ill-advised move, jeopardising careers of lakhs of students. They had urged segregation rather than cancellation in 2024, reasoning that students “innocent of wrongdoing should not pay a price for those who are actually found to be involved in irregularities”.

The government had argued in 2024 that cancelling the test would be like treating “unequals equally” and that innocents and wrongdoers would be made to suffer the same consequences. “Public bodies, after all, had to act fairly and reasonably,” the Centre said.

In its 2024 order, the court enumerated four consequences of the cancellation of the entrance test

The Centre had promised the court that the enactment of the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 was solid evidence of its “seriousness about safeguarding the sanctity of exams”.

Not more than two years have passed since these assurances and a statement issued by the NTA on Tuesday said that “inputs” and “investigative findings” necessitate the cancellation of the test.

The court did not cancel the 2024 test. It had held that cancellation would require the high-threshold proof of “systemic breach in the sanctity of the examination”. It is not certain if the 2026 paper leak shows such a systemic breach.

Four consequences

In its 2024 order, the court enumerated four hard-hitting consequences of the cancellation of the NEET exam.

These were disruption of the admission schedule for the commencement of courses, setting back the entire process by several months; cascading effects on the course of medical education; impact on the availability of qualified medical professionals in the future; and a grave disadvantage to students from marginalised communities and weaker sections for whom reservation has been made in the allocation of seats.

‘Transport, storage, human handling are weakest links in holding NEET’

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The K. Radhakrishnan Committee, constituted following the controversies surrounding malpractice in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical admissions in 2024, identified local transport and storage and human handling as some of the weakest links in the conduct of the test. The committee formed in June 2024 submitted its report in October the same year.

In its report, the committee said the test should be conducted in phases and a computer/hybrid mode should be brought in instead of relying entirely on a pen-and-paper mode. The committee sought an overhaul of the National Testing Agency (NTA) while reducing paper leak risks, minimising logistical vulnerabilities, improving encrypted delivery, and enabling better audit trails. It said the NTA should bring in permanent professional staff, reduce dependence on outsourced manpower, and have stronger accountability mechanisms.

The committee had sought feedback from stakeholders, especially students and parents. FILE PHOTO

Now, two years later, the Centre is yet to fully implement the recommendations. NEET-UG is India’s largest entrance examination conducted in a single day and in a single shift and attended by nearly 25 lakh candidates.

The report called for efforts to prevent impersonation by fake candidates to crack down on organised cheating networks and blacklist unreliable centres. Digital surveillance, CCTV use, and command-and-control monitoring could strengthen these efforts, it said.

Sought feedback

As part of the report-making process, the committee had sought feedback from stakeholders, especially students and parents. More than 37,000 responses were collected, a bulk of them from Class 12 students.

The committee explained that while doing away with third-party involvement in the exam process is recommended, a district-wise assessment of infrastructure – especially in rural areas – is equally important. It said that a computer-based test could reduce paper leak risk and enable better audit trails.

“The NTA may target developing at least 1,000 secure Standard Testing Centres in the country, in a phased manner, in reputed government institutions. This process may require a ‘war-footing’ approach,” the committee said, adding that it envisaged a future where the NTA could offer a nimble, zero-error, adaptive, and integrative process.

The committee also said that India could emerge as a global leader in educational testing. “Any test-conducting agency that learns to operate nationwide testing in India successfully gets to train a robust model that can work at scale in varied conditions and contexts elsewhere in the world,” the committee said.

Plea seeks SC direction to restructure or replace NTA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking a direction to the Centre to “replace or fundamentally restructure” the National Testing Agency (NTA) following the cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical admissions. The test, conducted on May 3, was cancelled due to a question paper leak.

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) pressed for the need for a “more robust, technologically advanced and autonomous body for conducting NEET”.

It said the court should intervene and appoint a high-powered monitoring committee chaired by a retired apex court judge and with members including a cybersecurity expert and a forensic scientist to supervise the re-conduct of the exam and ensure there were no further leaks.

Cong. takes a swipe at RSS leader over Pak. remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday took a dig at senior RSS functionary Dattatreya Hosabale over his remarks advocating dialogue with Pakistan.

Reacting to Mr. Hosabale’s remarks in an interview to PTI Videos, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the RSS leader’s recent interactions in the U.S. seemed to have had an impact on his outlook. He took a swipe at TV channels and supporters of the ruling dispensation, saying they would have “frothed, fumed, and fulminated” had similar remarks been made by leaders outside the ideological fold of the RSS.

Mr. Hosabale had said there should “always be a window” for dialogue with Pakistan and stressed the importance of people-to-people engagement in easing tensions between the two countries.

Modi cuts size of his convoy after making an appeal to save fuel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has substantially downsized the strength of his convoy, days after making an appeal to the people for the rational use of fuel-powered vehicles amid the West Asia crisis, a move subsequently followed by Chief Ministers in several States ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Mr. Modi’s fleet size has been reduced while ensuring that all essential components of his security arrangements remain in accordance with the Special Protection Group (SPG) protocols. After his appeal during a recent speech in Hyderabad, the decision was reportedly implemented during his visits to Gujarat and Assam. He has also asked for already available electric vehicles to be part of his convoy.

Following Mr. Modi’s appeal, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed a 50% reduction in the number of escort vehicles for himself and his Cabinet colleagues. He has requested people to reduce fuel consumption and avoid unnecessary purchase of gold, as suggested by Mr. Modi. The BJP-led governments in Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar have also taken similar decisions.

Narendra Modi

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghvi has cancelled his planned visit to the U.S.

Kharge slams Modi over ‘stagnant’ pensions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Narendra Modi government of preaching austerity to citizens while spending lavishly on publicity and political spectacle, even as pensions for the elderly, widows, and people with disabilities remain stagnant.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge alleged that the Centre had failed to raise old-age pensions for the past 12 years despite soaring inflation, thereby eroding the economic dignity of vulnerable sections of society.

Citing expenditure figures, he said the Centre had spent ₹5,987.46 crore on advertisements and publicity campaigns.

“This cruel BJP model strips disadvantaged citizens of their economic dignity while spending extravagantly on political spectacle,” he said.

TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED TVS

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CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	
1	Total income from operations	12,807.63	9,550.44	47,270.32	36,251.32	15,052.73	11,542.00	56,069.52	44,089.01
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	1,358.40	1,009.56	4,944.89	3,521.54	1,298.13	992.88	4,871.82	3,505.35
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	1,358.40	1,009.56	4,903.52	3,521.54	1,298.13	992.88	4,821.74	3,505.35
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	997.70	760.68	3,615.22	2,633.89	819.55	697.51	3,186.43	2,379.81
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income /(Loss) (after tax)]	1,026.04	800.98	3,780.58	2,666.08	1,019.00	733.01	3,693.34	2,427.03
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	11,186.79	9,849.71	-	-	9,516.74	8,455.87
8	Security Premium Account	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
9	Networth	11,348.62	10,006.97	11,348.62	10,006.97	9,187.21	8,481.39	9,187.21	8,481.39
10	Outstanding Debt	2,733.36	1,441.38	2,733.36	1,441.38	27,697.48	23,500.76	27,697.48	23,500.76
11	Outstanding Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times) (Debt includes NCRPS)	0.24	0.15	0.24	0.14	2.60	2.76	2.60	2.76
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic & Diluted (in Rs.) from continuing operations (ii) Basic & Diluted (in Rs.) from discontinuing operations (iii) Basic & Diluted (in Rs.) from continuing and discontinuing operations	21.00 - 21.00	15.78 0.23 16.01	76.09 - 76.09	54.81 0.63 55.44	16.24 - 16.24	13.41 0.23 13.64	63.53 - 63.53	46.42 0.63 47.05
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	3.82	7.13	4.77	5.18	2.12	2.34	3.03	2.88
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	29.37	37.16	29.64	29.61	18.50	18.06	17.75	14.36
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.54	0.61	0.54	0.61	0.97	1.12	0.97	1.12
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	-	2.46	1.81	2.46	1.81
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.88	0.84	0.88	0.84	0.70	0.60	0.70	0.60
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	28.08	28.08	28.08	28.08	25.66	24.80	25.66	24.80
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	20.37	16.64	20.37	16.64	14.31	11.46	14.31	11.46
25	Operating Margin (%)	13.1	14.0	12.9	12.3	11.3	12.1	11.5	10.8
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	7.8	8.0	7.6	7.3	5.4	6.0	5.7	5.4

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.tvsmotor.com).
2 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.
3 The Detailed Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2026 can be accessed through the QR code.

Date : 13.05.2026

For TVS Motor Company Limited
Sd/-
Sudarshan Venu
Chairman

INBRIEF

Consider requests on CCTV funds for police stations: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urged the Union government to consider requests from States for the disbursal of funds for installing CCTV cameras and creating a centralised monitoring dashboard across police stations. A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath asked the Centre to ensure the implementation of the Assistance to States and Union Territories for Modernisation of Police scheme, under which the Ministry of Home Affairs has undertaken to provide funds for installing CCTV infrastructure in police stations across States and Union Territories. The order was passed in a *suo motu* proceeding initiated last year.

SC praises decision by kin to donate Harish Rana's organs

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed appreciation for the family of Harish Rana, the first person in India to be permitted withdrawal of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration, for their "selfless" decision to donate his corneas and heart valves. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan said such "generosity" would ensure that Rana's legacy lives on through the lives he saves. "Harish left his mortal world on his own terms, surrounded by love and compassion. Even in the face of their own loss, his family chose generosity through the selfless decision to donate his corneas and heart valves...," the Bench said.

Accused in terror-financing case arrested after extradition

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested an alleged "narco-terrorist", Iqbal Singh, after securing his extradition from Portugal following sustained diplomatic and legal efforts. The NIA alleged that Singh, alias Shera, was a mastermind in a major Hizb-ul-Mujahideen terror-financing case. He was brought to Delhi and taken into custody. The accused had fled to Portugal in 2020. A non-bailable arrest warrant was issued against him in October 2020, followed by an Interpol Red Notice in June 2021. According to the NIA, Shera was a key conspirator and handler of an India-based narco-terror module engaged in smuggling heroin from Pakistan.

Prateek Yadav, younger son of Mulayam Singh, passes away

Prateek Yadav, younger son of Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and husband of BJP leader Aparna Bisht Yadav, passed away at 38, in Lucknow on Wednesday morning after falling ill. He was rushed to the Civil Hospital in Lucknow, where doctors declared him brought dead. He was the stepbrother of Akhilesh Yadav, the president of the Samajwadi Party. The postmortem conducted at King George's Medical University (KGMU) revealed that Mr. Yadav died due to a massive blockage in the blood vessels of the lungs. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Mr. Yadav's residence, and, in a post on X, expressed his grief.

CBSE Class 12 results record slight dip in pass percentage

National pass percentage stands at 85.2%, 3.19 percentage points down from last year's; girls record a 88.86% rate, outperforming boys; Thiruvananthapuram region records over 95%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday released the Class 12 Board examination results, which recorded a slight dip in the overall pass percentage from last year's results.

The national pass percentage stands at 85.2%, a drop of 3.19 percentage points from last year's 88.39%. A total of 17,68,968 students appeared in the examination.

Girls have once again outshone boys. "The pass rate for girls reached 88.86%, surpassing boys (82.13%) by a significant margin of 6.73%," a CBSE release said.

Jubilant faces: Students in Patna celebrate their success after the CBSE Class 12 results were announced on Wednesday. ANI

The Board has maintained its tradition of not releasing an official merit list to curb "unhealthy competition", it said. Over 94,000 students scored above 90%, with more than 17,000 candidates securing marks above 95%. Among the regions, Thiruvananthapuram leads the charts with a 95.62% pass rate, followed closely by Chennai and Bengaluru. Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh has the lowest at 72.43%.

Up to 1.63 lakh students placed in the compartment category, or those wishing to improve their scores in a single subject, can appear for the supplementary exams scheduled for July 15, the CBSE said.

The Board will soon release the schedule for students who wish to apply for marks verification or a photocopy of their evaluated answer books.

MSP for kharif crops hiked; farm groups criticise rates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday announced the minimum support price (MSP) for kharif crops for the 2026-27 season, with the MSP for paddy increased by ₹72 per quintal to ₹2,441 for the common variety.

Talking to reporters after the CCEA meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the revised MSPs would ensure returns of about 50% over the cost of production of each crop.

For A-grade paddy varieties, the revised MSP is ₹2,461 per quintal. The MSP for cotton (medium staple) was increased by ₹557 to ₹8,267 per quintal, while the long staple variety would fetch ₹8,667 per quintal. For edible oil crops, sunflower seed MSP was increased by ₹622 to ₹8,343 per quintal, Niger seed by ₹515 to ₹10,052 per quintal, and sesamum by ₹500 to ₹10,346 per quintal. The MSP of soyabean was raised by ₹380 to ₹5,708 per quintal, while groundnut MSP was up by ₹254 to ₹7,517 per quintal.

Farmer organisations criticised the new rates, saying they do not factor in the possible "disastrous impact" of the India-U.S. trade deal and other free trade agreements, on the agriculture sector.

PCOS gets a new name; change seeks to aid faster diagnosis and treatment

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

The Endocrine Society, a global organisation of scientists and physicians devoted to hormone-related conditions, has decided to rename Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS).

What's in a name, you might ask. But there is good reason why this name change is important. In an article published in *The Lancet*, the authors Helena J. Teede et al, argue that the term PCOS is inaccurate as it refers to cysts in the ovaries and, if diagnosis is based on this, contributes to delays in diagnosis, treatment, and stigma. Instead, they explain that "accuracy is improved by omitting cysts and by capturing endocrine, metabolic, and ovarian dysfunction". A "global implementation strategy, including a transition period, education, and alignment with health systems and disease classification" is reportedly under way.

A. Jaishree Gajaraj, senior obstetrician-gynaecologist based in Chennai, says this is a welcome move that will definitely help improve the perception of this condition, and will help clinical practice as well. "Unfortunately even doctors seem to think cysts in the ovary alone is PCOS, and there is a lot of erroneous self-diagnosis as well these days," she said.

PCOS is estimated to affect 170 million women during their reproductive years alone.

PCOS is estimated to affect 170 million women during their reproductive years alone. It is diagnosed, based on women over 20 meeting at least two of the following International Guideline criteria: irregular or absent ovulation (oligo-anovulation), meaning periods that are infrequent, too long between cycles, or absent; high male hormone levels (hyperandrogenism), with either visible signs such as excess hair growth, acne, or hair loss; or blood tests; and polycystic ovaries detected as small follicles, on ultrasound scans or high Anti Müllerian Hormone levels in the blood.

However, as the paper says: "The broad clinical features of the condition are not captured in its current name, as although arrested follicular development is common, ovarian cysts are not increased. These factors delay diagnosis – with up to 70% of the affected individuals remaining undiagnosed.

The authors write that PCOS has long been "primarily perceived as a gynaecological or ovarian disorder". The reproductive focus of the name can reinforce stigma, particularly in sociocultural contexts where fertility carries high value.

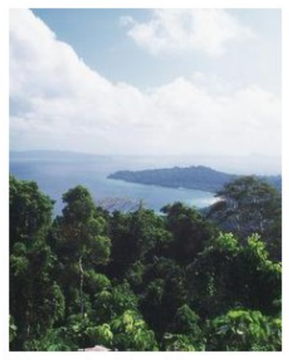
However, mounting research, evidence synthesis, and International Guidelines have shown that PCOS is underpinned by "endocrine disturbances in insulin, androgens, and neuroendocrine and ovarian hormones." Further, they emphasise that the multi-pronged features that underline the condition must be folded in for a diagnosis. They can be metabolic, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and abnormal levels of fats in the blood, they could also be reproductive – causing irregular menstrual cycles, infertility, pregnancy complications, and endometrial cancer. They can also manifest as psychological features.

Nicobarese oppose proposal for three wildlife sanctuaries

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Even as the Calcutta High Court is set to hear challenges to the Centre's Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project over allegations that the Forest Rights Act was violated while obtaining locals' consent for it, the tribal council in Nicobar has now flagged further violations of the law in the government's notification of three wildlife sanctuaries in the Little Nicobar, Menchal, and Meroe islands.

While acknowledging that its ₹92,000-crore development project to build an international container transhipment port, an airport, and a greenfield tourist township on the Great Nicobar Island would impact coral colonies, and nesting habitats of the leatherback turtle and the megapode, the Union government, in October 2022, notified the three sanctuaries to conserve these species, in parts of the Little Nicobar Island, Meroe Island and Menchal Island - all north of GNI.



The sanctuaries will come up on Little Nicobar, Meroe, and Menchal islands. GETTY IMAGES

Community in the dark

However, since August 2022, the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar has been writing to the Union government and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI) administration, flagging that the process to notify these sanctuaries had been initiated without giving notice to members of their community who have lived on and maintained these islands for generations.

In a letter to the Assistant Conservator of Forests of the Nicobar Forest Division, the tribal council on April 23 this year, reiterated that the three sanctuaries on Little Nicobar Island and the Meroe and Menchal islands were announced without any consultation with the residents and traditional owners and caretakers of the islands. The council noted that of these three sites, Meroe and Menchal islands are of "high cultural and spiritual significance" to the Nicobarese; they believe the sites are home to the spirits of their ancestors.

The council was responding to a notice for a meeting of the committee constituted to determine the eco-sensitive zone around these three sanctuaries – the Leatherback Turtle Sanctuary in parts of LNI, the Megapode Sanctuary in all of Menchal Island, and the Coral Sanctuary on the entire Meroe Island. In the letter, the council said its chairman was not consulted before the committee was formed – he was merely informed that he was part of the committee, that too a month later.

'Scrap decision'

The council said the notification for these sanctuaries should be revoked and the committee on eco-sensitive zones be dissolved, as they were against the wishes of the community. The sanctuaries would encroach upon their pre-existing rights on these lands, which they have been exercising to hold ritual hunts, maintain plantations, worship their ancestors, and conserve wildlife species around them, it said.

In response to the concerns raised by the tribal council, the Nicobar administration, in May 2025, issued a "clarification" noting that the declaration of the three sanctuaries would not affect the "hunting rights conferred on the Scheduled Tribes of the Nicobar Islands".

Appeal to Minister

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Congress leader and former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh wrote to Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, asserting that consent procedures under the Forest Rights Act were violated in the case of the GNI project.

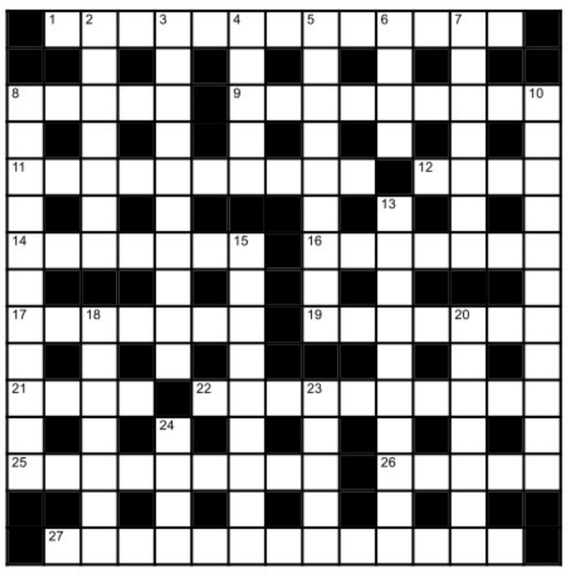
He noted that the consent should have been obtained from the Tribal Council and not the Gram Sabhas, and also questioned how the government-controlled Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti could grant consent for the project on behalf of the Shompen, a particularly vulnerable tribal group. Mr. Ramesh asked Mr. Oram to direct the A&NI administration to withdraw the clearances issued under the law.

TH CROSSWORD + 14793

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Bans pesticide, nasty stuff (4,3,6)
8 Dim lights entirely at first in pub (5)
9 Dribbling with energy in east European arena (9)
11 Be very surprised by awful heat on set around afternoon (3,4,3)
12 Beat culprit stealing bags in retreat (4)
14 Father is captivated by a master's art movement (7)
16 Kitchen item with good sieve (7)
17 American chap is badly affected by a language disorder (7)
19 Overwhelmed by drink, member has terribly serious accident (5-2)
21 Trouble after king's murder (4)
22 Hero in rave turned intoxicated (10)
25 Repaired terminal's railway tracks (9)
26 Extremely unruly fool interrupting concert (5)
27 Clear-cut kind of film (5-3-5)

Down

2 Thought creatively and edited a novel (7)
3 Most resilient secret agents collaring gang leader in tunnel (10)
4 Bags filled with special egg holders (5)
5 Girl transported by plane has broken bones (9)
6 Wife entertained by show about sheep (4)
7 Victory secured by deceit, rogue's expelled (7)
8 Stabbed with rake, ripping the stomach (11)
10 Start to roll joint with member in merry social event held on lawn (6,5)
13 One inspired by macho stud's unusual knack of making money (5,5)
15 Revolutionary plan to catch brilliant Mafia boss in European region (9)
18 Ancient chamber containing large bag (7)
20 Musician in Paris, playing in hotel bar (7)
23 Take a sedative to stay relaxed (5)
24 Starts to beat leader of cocaine cartel (4)

SUDOKU

8							5	
		7			5	4		
5			3	4	9		1	7
6				1	3			
	7						8	
			8	6				5
3	6		9	5	8			1
		4	6			5		
	5							3

No.SS6880 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	6	1	4	7	8	2	3
3	7	1	2	9	8	5	6	4
2	4	8	5	3	6	1	9	7
4	2	5	9	7	1	3	8	6
6	1	7	8	5	3	9	4	2
9	8	3	6	2	4	7	5	1
8	3	9	4	1	2	6	7	5
7	6	4	3	8	5	2	1	9
1	5	2	7	6	9	4	3	8

FAITH

Tiruvaimozhi: revered work

In a pasuram about Lord Azhagar of Thirumalirunjolai, Nammazhvar says the Lord Himself sings the verses in praise of Him. This gives us an idea about the greatness of Tiruvaimozhi, said V.S. Karunakaracharia in a discourse. Tiruvaimozhi will always remain a revered work. There is a story about a king, who was against Vaishnavism. He went about pulling down all Vishnu temples. When this king died, his son became the king. The new king knew that his father had been foolish. He told his ministers that Vaishnavism could not be destroyed as long as the Ramayana and Tiruvaimozhi were around. We have bodies made of five elements. The rains nourish crops and grass. We eat that which grows on the earth. We drink the milk of cows, which feed on grass. To cook our food we need fire. But in the case of Nammazhvar, he never ate or drank anything that depended on the elements. He said the food he ate, the water he drank, the betel leaves he chewed were all nothing but Kannan (Lord Krishna).

There are many Upanishadic truths in Tiruvaimozhi. For instance, he says God exists if you say he does. He also exists if you say He doesn't! If you say God doesn't exist, then you will be asked, "How do you know?" If the answer to that question is "He is not here," then it can be asked, "Does this mean He is elsewhere?" If you reply that He is not here at present, then the question asked will be, "How do you know He wasn't there in the past, and won't be there in future?" The very fact that you are talking about God shows He exists. You cannot talk about something that does not exist. This is what Nammazhvar means when he says God exists when you deny His existence.

'India should have stepped into vacuum left by U.S.'

The session on 'India's Diplomatic Balancing in West Asia: Strategic Autonomy, Energy Security & Global Responsibility', moderated by Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Editor, *The Hindu*. J. JOHAN SATHYADAS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

India should have stepped into the vacuum when the United States, which played a dominant role in the West Asia region as the guarantor of security, lost its credibility in the region, said Talmiz Ahmad, former Ambassador to Oman, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, and Professor of International studies, Symbiosis International University, Pune. He was speaking at Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), which is hosting *The Hindu* Diplomacy and Sustainability Dialogues 2026.

The former Ambassador was speaking on the topic 'India's Diplomatic Balancing in West Asia: Strategic Autonomy, Energy Security and Global Responsibility' on Wednesday.

Answering a question posed by by Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Editor, *The Hindu*, over whether he felt India has followed a "balanced" West Asia policy, Sunjay Sudhir, former Ambassador to UAE and Maldives and Distinguished Fellow, IIM Ahmedabad, said that the policy has been rather "pragmatic".

Commenting on India's role in the crisis in West Asia, Gulshan Sachdeva, Jean Monnet Chair, School of International Studies, JNU, said that India had taken a side in West Asia even before the war had begun.

"I would say that our assessment was not really correct. We thought that it was going to be a short and an easy war and they (U.S. and Israel) were going to win. We are trying to, perhaps, balance since then...," he said, adding, "Our one relationship with Israel should not become a liability, not only in West Asia, but in the entire Global South. In the long run, things are going to settle." T.C. Karthikeyan, Professor of Politics and International Relations, Director - Centre For Public policy and Administration, Saveetha School of Law, added, "Whenever nations face economic hardships, some people may emerge saying they can offer all the solutions. We have to be mindful of the emergence of dictatorships. India should play the role of a facilitator."

'Iran war shows military force alone is no solution to conflicts'

Iran's insistence on a permanent solution of the issues involved has put the focus once again on political resolutions of wars and conflicts, in the region and beyond, says former diplomat T.S. Tirumurti at the Diplomacy and Sustainability Dialogues

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The inaugural session of Diplomacy and Sustainability Dialogues 2026 featured former diplomats and experts. L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, N.M. Veeraiyan, Chancellor, SIMATS Chennai, Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Editor, *The Hindu*, were present. J. JOHAN SATHYADAS

The United States-Israel-Iran war has clearly exhibited that military action alone was not enough to find resolution to conflicts and that a political follow-up was pertinent, T.S. Tirumurti, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York, said in Chennai on Wednesday.

Speaking at the inauguration of Diplomacy and Sustainability Dialogues 2026, jointly organised by Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS) and *The Hindu*, the former Ambassador said, "...what has changed is that the Iran war has shown us once again that military force by itself cannot be a solution unless followed up with a political solution, whether in Ukraine or in Gaza or in Iran. With the U.S. and China having almost parallel visions of the world order, political resolution of conflict is one area which has been receiving less and less attention, especially from the P5 countries - the permanent five countries of the United Nations."

On political resolutions

The Iranian insistence on a permanent solution of the issues involved, he said, has put the focus once again on political resolutions of wars and conflicts, both in the region and beyond.

Referring to the various conflicts and proxy wars in Africa fought by external players, historical conflicts in West Asia, including the Palestinian issue, and threats and conflicts in Latin America, Mr. Tirumurti said that terrorism has added one more layer of conflict by State or by non-State actors.

"We ignore all of them at our own peril. It is time we took the right lessons from the Iran war," he warned.

'New world order'

Talmiz Ahmed, former Ambassador to Oman, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, and Distinguished Professor of International Studies, Symbiosis International University, Pune, said the expression "we are in the cusp of a new world order" was something international relations experts were grappling with of late; and that it was a coming together of a "large number of significant changes".

"It will take some effort on your part to realise that many of the things that are given in your life are changing and are likely to change very significantly," Mr. Ahmed said pointing at what he called a "seismic change in political order" in Tamil Nadu, and the government elected in Delhi 12 years ago that was revamping the basis of the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution. Quoting Lord Byron, he said, "...first freedom, then glory, then wealth, vice, corruption, barbarism at last...we are looking at the age of barbarism. This is what explains the extraordinary violence that has been wreaked all across West Asia with total impunity."

Sunjay Sudhir, former Ambassador to the UAE and Maldives, and Distinguished Fellow, IIM Ahmedabad, said that the West Asia conflict has had a deep impact on India that was visible in its GDP, inflation, fall of the rupee, and the current account deficit, and was also having a deep cascading effect on its industries, especially petrochemicals and fertilisers. "When the war ends, when there is this so-called settlement that satisfies all sides, I think it will be a big challenge for us, because not only is there a new axis forming - Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt - but with the politics of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) itself changing, I think that will put our diplomacy to a big test," he added.

> Through activities connected with the UN Sustainable Development Goals , we are committed to developing socially responsible students
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> **N.M. VEERAIYAN**
> Chancellor, SIMATS Chennai

N.M. Veeraiyan, Chancellor, SIMATS Chennai, said that the university believed in the principle of providing more than education, equipping students to contribute to society through innovation, research, policy, and sustainable development. "Through activities connected with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), we are committed to developing socially responsible students, ethical leaders, and researchers who can solve real world problems by themselves," Dr. Veeraiyan added.

In his welcome address, L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, *The Hindu* Group of Publications, said dialogues such as these create informed public discourse, bringing together voices that helped society think deeper, engage better, and understand the larger forces shaping the future.

"At a time when the world is witnessing deep geopolitical shifts, economic uncertainty, energy insecurity, and increasing sustainability concerns, conventions such as these become not just relevant but a necessity," Mr. Navaneeth added.

Earlier, setting the stage for the deliberations, Dhanraj Ganapathy, Dean of Sustainability, SIMATS, said that India's position in the present geopolitical context was very "delicate" and it needed to tread cautiously while choosing between "the worse and the worst". SIMATS, he said, would consolidate the day's deliberations in the form of a document and present it to the Government of India.

S. Sundaresan, Vice-President, Advertisement Sales - South, *The Hindu*, proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the event.

> The escalating Iran–Israel–USA conflict signals the dangerous breakdown of deterrence in West Asia. India was uniquely positioned to play a stabilising diplomatic role. India's long-standing civilisational ties with the Gulf, coupled with its growing global stature and energy dependence on the region, made neutrality not merely desirable but strategically necessary
>
> **ASHWANI KUMAR**
> Vice-Chancellor, SIMATS

> India's approach to the West Asia crisis reflects a delicate diplomatic balancing act aimed at protecting its strategic, economic, and geopolitical interests.
> The greatest risks for India include pressure from competing global powers to take sides. India has managed to maintain balanced relations across West Asia while safeguarding its national interests and diplomatic flexibility
>
> **DHANRAJ GANAPATHY**
> Dean of Sustainability, SIMATS

India should formulate a regional policy for West Asia: T.S. Tirumurti

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Former diplomat T.S. Tirumurti in conversation with Stanly Johny, International Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*, during a session at the Diplomacy & Sustainability Dialogues 2026. J. JOHAN SATHYADAS

It is important to have a separate regional policy that accounts for the contradictions in a region, as a regional policy is not an aggregation of excellent bilateral policies, said T.S. Tirumurti, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York, at Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), near Thandalam, which hosted *The Hindu* Diplomacy and Sustainability Dialogues 2026.

In conversation with Stanly Johny, International Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*, on the topic 'India's Global Future: Leadership, Diplomacy and Sustainability in Times of Conflict', the former Ambassador said: "Right now, you have a huge problem between Saudi Arabia and the UAE. But India has excellent relations with both. So, how are you going to manage those contradictions? That comes only if you have a well-thought-out regional policy, which will also include Iran."

Asked to elaborate on tackling multiple crises arising out of the West Asia region, especially energy crises and so on, Mr. Tirumurti said: "There are two important aspects to it: strategic autonomy and pro-activeness. Strategic autonomy is enlarging your space and taking independent decisions for your country based on your national interest. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru exercised strategic autonomy by stating, 'I don't want to join either of the two'. And countries actually came and joined India in non-alignment (movement). We naturally became the leader of the Global South."

He added: "In the present context, we have multi-alignment. We have two superpowers who actually engage very closely with each other but they are also adversaries. In multi-alignment, the point is it helps us get strategic autonomy, but it doesn't help us get leadership in geopolitics." The former diplomat added that leadership is important because geopolitics affects economy, business, technology, and everything else.

Speaking about the perils of not playing a proactive role, Mr. Tirumurti said, "If you do not take a proactive role [in conflicts], other countries like Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan will fill this space. So, you are actually ceding space to other countries. We should continue to stick to our policy of strategic autonomy but be proactive."

Explaining how Pakistan found itself at the centre of the conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran, the former Ambassador said, "A regional security architecture for that region (West Asia) should include Iran. Just as Russia should be included in Europe's security architecture. The blocking of [Strait of] Hormuz is going to change their thinking about security. In future, they will look at land connectivity, pipelines, and how to avoid it (blockades). De-risking supply chains will be a major aspect going forward," he said.

Explaining how the U.S. could not meet its objectives in the Iran conflict, he said, "By having a regime change, they wanted to stop this [radical] ideology and stop the proxies from getting any help from Iran. All of us know none of this has happened. Not only are Iran's Revolutionary Guards there, they also have become stronger... The most important thing that has happened due to the Iran war is that it has exposed the security umbrella of the United States and has shown the Gulf States are extremely vulnerable. When it comes to nuclear [weapons], all the stockpiles remain with Iran."

'Learn from Sri Lanka's experience on impact of fertilizer supply chains'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The session on 'Impact of West Asia crisis on Economic Disruptions & Sustainability: Implications for India' moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu*. J. JOHAN SATHYADAS

As the West Asia crisis impacts fertilizer supply globally, India should shift its long-term focus to gradually move away from the older model of fertilizer-dependent agricultural practices while not forgetting lessons learnt from the Sri Lankan experience, according to Sudha Meiyappan, Member, Economic Affairs Committee, Southern India Chamber Of Commerce And Industry (SICCI).

Participating in a panel discussion on the topic 'Impact of West Asia Crisis on Economic Disruptions and Sustainability: Implications for India' here on Wednesday, she said that in the long run, India should seek to make agriculture sustainable by adopting natural farming, agro-forestry, and various other forms of sustainable movements that are taking place in the sector. She, however, put forth a caveat that India should take care to pick up lessons from the Sri Lankan experience.

The island country had made a sudden shift to organic farming with a ban on fertilizer imports leading to a drop in production of food grains causing economic disruption and social unrest.

The panel discussion was part of the Diplomacy and Sustainability Dialogues 2026 jointly organised by the Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technological Sciences (SIMATS) and *The Hindu*.

Ms. Meiyappan said that in the short term, India should continue to follow the current policies while focussing on a transition to sustainable practices in the long term. "In the short term, you continue doing what you are doing today. You don't change to organic today, but over the long term, you slowly, gradually veer away...not organic per se, but something that's more climate resilient, more sustainable in nature. You can't get rid of fertilizers but [determine] how much you are using and for what crop you are using and where the crop is being grown," she said, responding to a question from the moderator Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu*.

She also warned that India was looking at curtailment of personal consumption by virtue of general price rise due to the increase in fuel prices, even without the announcement from the Prime Minister. Gold prices, for example, went beyond the threshold of being a safe haven even before the war. After the announcement, the artisans and the local shops selling gold will be impacted heavily, Ms. Meiyappan added.

Col. Rajeev Agarwal (retd), Senior Research Consultant, Chintan Research Foundation, said that the Iran war has given clear dimensions to projects like India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) while it has exposed the vulnerability of the existing trade routes and connectivity. Choke points and conflict zones, he said, would always make trade connectivity and supply lines vulnerable. An alternative is required that bypasses both these chokepoints and conflict zones. Projects like IMEC, with certain modifications given the geopolitical changes, could provide such a framework.

S. Pandiaraj, professor of International Law and Trade, Saveetha School of Law, said that India's stand in foreign affairs should be pragmatic but also operate in a way that would not forsake the values and principles that it always stood for, whether it was the 1955 Bandung Conference or the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

"The transactional approach, the give and take approach would only take us up to a point and not beyond. So, India should be careful in terms of treading various passages," Dr. Pandiaraj observed.

INBRIEF

HPCL Q4 net zooms 46% on improved refining margins

State-owned refiner Hindustan Petroleum's net profit in the March-end quarter zoomed more than 46% from the comparable period last year, aided by a 69% improvement in gross-refining margins (GRM) during the reported period that did not entirely see the impact of escalating tensions in West Asia, and their impact on fuel supplies. The refiner's net profit accelerated to ₹4,902 crore during the reported quarter from ₹3,355 crore in the comparable period last year.

Oil India net rises 12.5% on better crude price realisation

State-owned explorer Oil India reported net profit in the March-ended quarter rose 12.5% on a year-on-year basis, fuelled by a 5% improvement in average crude price realisation and 6% increase in crude oil production. Standalone profit after tax stood at ₹1,790 crore, against ₹1,591 crore in the year earlier period. Oil India produced 0.891 MMT of crude oil from matured and old oil fields. Its board recommended a dividend of ₹1 for each equity share.

Bharti Airtel posts ₹7,325 cr. Q4 net profit; ARPU flat

Bharti Airtel reported a 39% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit (before exceptional items) at ₹7,245 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, compared with ₹5,222 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. The profits are 34% lower year-on-year if the one-time Indus Towers consolidation last year is taken into account. India business posted quarterly revenues of ₹39,566 crore, an increase of 7.7%.

Indian-manned ship owner, operator to pay $2.25 billion

Highest-ever shipping damages payout against Grace Ocean and Synergy Marine, the owner and operator, respectively, of container ship Dali that rammed into a bridge in Baltimore in 2024

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

The State of Maryland has reached a $2.25 billion settlement with Grace Ocean Private Limited and Synergy Marine Pte Ltd., the owner and the operator, respectively, of the Indian-manned container ship Dali that rammed into a bridge in Baltimore in March, 2024.

Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown said: "This $2.25 billion settlement reflects the full measure of accountability we were able to secure from the vessel interests - and our pursuit of justice is not finished." This may imply any claims Maryland may pursue against others, such as the manufacturer of the ship.

Synergy sources confirmed the settlement but did not want to discuss insurance contribution. In October, 2024, the federal Department of Justice had settled with the two companies for $102 million, covering claims from federal agencies.

Cargo ship Dali stuck under a part of the Francis Scott Key Bridge after the ship hit the bridge in March 2024. FILE PHOTO

The total loss, as estimated by the U.S. government, runs to some $5 billion. Insurance experts had earlier predicted that the Dali accident will equal or surpass the then highest-ever marine insurance payout in the case of the Costa Concordia cruise vessel capsizing in 2012.

Ahead of the settlement announcement, the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) said it was pressing criminal charges against Synergy Marine of Singapore, Synergy Maritime of Chennai and their employee Radhakrishnan Karthick Nair, technical superintendent of Dali.

Synergy has, however, disputed the version of the DoJ on the cause of the accident.

According to the department, the accident was largely due to two onboard blackouts before the ship rammed into the bridge. First blackout was allegedly caused by a loose electrical wire and the second allegedly by generators getting starved of fuel and stopping because of the use of a wrong fuel pump.

Synergy has, however, said the root cause of the accident was the loose electrical wire, attributed to the manufacturer's latent defect. The settlement with the two companies leaves open claims Maryland may have against the manufacturer of the ship, Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Synergy, in a statement, said: "DOJ is criminalising a tragic accident. The DOJ's reference to the vessel's use of the flushing pump is wholly irrelevant to the cause of the allision and runs contrary to the conclusions reached by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board following a comprehensive 20-month maritime accident investigation. When the allision occurred, the vessel was approximately three ship lengths away from the Francis Scott Key Bridge, transiting at approximately 8.5 knots."

"Both the NTSB and well-respected maritime experts have conclusively determined that the accident was inevitable due to the loose wire, which was in no way attributable to Synergy's operation of the vessel," the statement says.

Cabinet approves ₹37,500 cr. package to boost coal gasification

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefing the media on the coal gasification scheme.

Providing a fillip to India's pursuit of coal gasification, the Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a ₹37,500-crore package to boost the sustainable alternate mining method.

The package seeking to promote surface coal gasification entails conversion of coal into syngas or synthetic gas, which could also be further used to produce downstream products like urea - about one-fifth of whose requirement is met through imports.

"India's import bill for key substitutable products LNG, urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonia, coking coal, methanol, DME and others stood at approximately ₹2.77 lakh crore in FY2025, a vulnerability further exposed by the ongoing geopolitical situation in West Asia," according to a Cabinet announcement.

With the scheme, India is targeting gasification of approximately 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite. This would contribute to the 100 MT target set for 2030. Further seeking to provide long-term certainty for investment in this sector, the government also extended the coal linkage tenure up to 30 years within an accompanying component of the scheme entailing production of syngas leading to coal gasification.

More importantly though, the scheme would accord a financial incentive of up to one-fifth of the cost of plant and machinery.

In terms of project size, the scheme caps a financial incentive of ₹5,000 crore for a single project, and for any single product-centred project, except that for SNG and urea, it extends up to ₹9,000 crore.

A single entity would be able to avail a maximum of ₹12,000 crore across all project categorisations.

Air India slashes North America flights by 40%, global network by 27%

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India on Wednesday announced sweeping international schedule cuts between June and August, including a nearly 40% reduction in North America operations and significant cuts across SAARC and Southeast Asia, resulting in an overall reduction of about 27% in the airline's international network capacity. The airline announced a net reduction of 145 weekly flights across North America, Europe, South East Asia, SAARC and Far East between June and August 2026. Air India sources said this amounted to an overall 27% reduction in flights. North America, Air India's most critical international market, will see weekly flights reduced from 51 to 33, a 39% cut.

Services on routes such as Delhi-Chicago, Delhi-Newark and Mumbai-New York are being temporarily suspended, although the airline has added four extra Mumbai-Newark flights, taking that route to seven weekly services.

In Europe, cuts have been made on routes to Paris, Copenhagen, Milan, Vienna, Zurich and Rome.

India-Sri Lanka forum identifies logistics, pharma among six areas for cooperation

Chinmay Rajendrakumar Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Krishan Balendra

The India-Sri Lanka Business Forum, organised by the CII in partnership with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai, has identified six areas for collaboration: ports, transport and logistics, pharmaceuticals, online payments, travel, and the existing free trade agreement (FTA).

Officials from both sides said these sectors offered immediate investment and trade opportunities.

The forum offered Indian businesses direct engagement with a Sri Lankan delegation representing diverse industries. This would help the two countries strengthen economic engagement and explore new avenues of cooperation across priority sectors.

Ports and logistics

Krishan Balendra, chairperson of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and John Keells Holdings plc, said logistics firms from both countries could form joint ventures for warehousing and cold storage. Transport links, including shipping routes and rail connectivity to Indian ports, were also discussed. Sri Lankan buyers expressed interest in sourcing generic drugs from India's pharma clusters in Mumbai and Pune.

Anurag Agarwal, co-chairman of CII WR subcommittee on International Trade & Investment, and CEO of Polycab India, noted that the existing FTA allows zero or low duties on many drug formulations. Both chambers agreed to share lists of registered pharma companies. India's FDA-approved drugs are already trusted in Sri Lanka, and a faster clearance mechanism was proposed.

Sri Lanka is also said to explore cross-border digital payment links with India. The Ceylon Chamber stated that UPI-like systems could reduce transaction costs for tourists and traders. Indian fintech firms were invited to pilot such services in Colombo and Kandy. Travel circuits now include electronic visa on arrival for Sri Lankans landing in Mumbai.

FTA review

The existing FTA, covering over 4,000 products, will be reviewed to add pharmaceutical raw materials and logistics equipment. Shiran Fernando, Secretary General and CEO of The Ceylon Chamber, said a joint working group on trade facilitation would meet in August 2026.

The forum was addressed by H.E. Mahishini Colonne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India and Duminda Hulangamuwa, Senior Economic Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka among others.

West Asia conflict hits lubricant industry, 30% cost hike passed on to consumers

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Anything that took about ₹100 to make is now costing ₹150, says Nagendra Pai, CEO, Mitul India & South Asia

The lubricant industry has seen the cost of production rising by 50% since the outbreak of the West Asia conflict, making it imperative to pass on part of the extra burden on to consumers, according to an industry leader.

The industry has done it in two phases and already 30% of the higher cost has been passed on to consumers from this month and more hikes are coming.

"The entire petroleum industry was the first to get impacted. The consumers in India have still not got impacted on the fuel prices because of the government control. Since March, for all the companies, the costs have increased by 50%. So, anything that took about ₹100 to make is now costing ₹150," said Nagendra Pai, CEO, Mitul India & South Asia.

"Most of the companies like us purchased more raw material in March and because of that, up till the end of April, the consumers were kind of insulated from a price increase on products," he pointed out.

"From May 1, it is natural that one has to pass on some of the increases. So, there have been price increases. We have passed on about 30% in two tranches to the consumers. But the real impact is yet to come," he said. "Only the first impact has come and [it was] minimal because of the stock in the pipeline," he added. The company on Wednesday unveiled *IPONE*, a premium French lubricant brand with Japanese DNA. The product is targeted at young bikers riding premium bikes.

TVS Motor Q4 PAT rises 19% to ₹772 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

TVS Motor Company, reported a 19% YoY growth in Q4 consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at ₹772 crore. Revenue grew 30% YoY to ₹15,053 crore. For FY26, the company reported 35% YoY growth in PAT at ₹3,018 crore. Revenue for the year grew 27% to ₹56,070 crore. The board has declared an interim dividend of ₹12 per equity share. The company also allotted four fully paid bonus non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS) having a face value of ₹10 each for every equity share held, amounting to ₹1,900 crore with September 1, 2026 as maturity date.

UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
(UPRVUNL)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

UPRVUNL invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for an integrated ERP solution with AI/ analytics to automate and manage its core business and operational processes.

- The project scope includes supply, implementation, migration, integration, testing, and commissioning of the AI enabled ERP system along with an enterprise-grade database platform.
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ई–निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्र सं.–WB-74-W-O/Works/NIT/X दिनांक: 11.05.2026

मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से **ई–निविदा** के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमो के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रो में निविदा निम्न कार्यो के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 42of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Provision of new TMC siding including Linking of track, extension of track machine sidings, & other ancillary work at various stations ie. Gudha, Nawa City, Makrana, Gachipur, Degana, REN, Merta Road, Umed, Khajwana, Marwar Mundwa, Alai, Surpura, Deshnokh, Udramsar, Khatu, Khun Khuna, Didwana, Ladnun & Parihara station for new TMC sidings in the Jurisdiction of DEN/East. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 107745939.55 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 2154900.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 46of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Zone contract- (Masonary & Painting & Road Work) Zone-1 Residential buildings from MCPE (incl.) to BKN(ex) & Borawar (incl.) to KQW (ex.) in the section of SSE/W/MTD in ADEN/MTD sub division for Year 2026-2027 & 2027-2028. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 69599160.92 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 1392000.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 44of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Zone Contract-(Masonary & Painting & Road Work) Zone-I Residential buildings from Borawar (ex.) to Phulera (ex) in the section of SSE/W/DNA under ADEN/DNA sub division for Year 2026-2027 & 2027-2028. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 34000956.60 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 680000.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 45of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Zone Contract (Masonary & Painting & Road Work) Zone-2 Servicel buildings from Borawar (ex.) to Phulera (ex) and Degana (ex) to Ratan Garh (ex) in the section of SSE/W/DNA under ADEN/DNA sub division for 2026-2027 & 2027-2028. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 15000023.27 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 300000.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 51of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Zone contract- (Masonary & Painting & Road Work) Zone-3 Residential buildings from Degana (ex) to Ratan Garh (ex) in the section of SSE/W/DNA under ADEN/DNA sub division for Year2026-2027 & 2027-2028. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 35199880.40 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 704000.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 48of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Zone contract-(Water Supply) Zone-5:- Supply of potable sweet drinking water to pway gangs, staff qtrs., stations & L-xing etc. in the section of SSW/P Way/ MKN, DIA & SUJH under ADEN/DNA for Year 2026-27 & 2027-28. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 8499999.84 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 170000.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2026–27** : 50of2026-27 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Platform shelter along with CC Benches at various station in the Jurisdiction of DEN/East in connection with Conversion of Bus Type PF Shelter. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 23081228.03 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 461600.00 **निविदा सूचना सं.** 420f2026-27, 460f2026-27, 44of2026-27, 450f2026-27, 51of2026-27, 480f2026-27 & 50of2026-27 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 01.06.2026, 01.06.2026, 02.06.2026, 04.06.2026, 04.06.2026, 05.06.2026 & 08.06.2026 को 15.00 बजे तक) वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है – **www.ireps.gov.in**

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Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
Debt Recovery Tribunal-I, Karnataka
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)]By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

DEMAND NOTICE
(NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.)

RC/476/2025 22-10-2025

BANK OF BARODA versus SRI RAJENDRA @ RAJENDRAN

In the Matter of: (CH-1) BANK OF BARODA (ERSTWHILE VIJAYA BANK) Branch at : Sarakki,147, 4th Cross, Near SBAshram, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560078. ...Applicant(s)

VERSUS

To,
(CD-1) 1. Sri Rajendra @ Rajendran (Since Deceased Rep by its Legal Heirs D4 and D5), **2. Sri M. Sunder** S/o R. Muniyappa, No. 32, 8th Main HAL 2nd Stage, Opp Panchatti Apartments, Kodihalli, Bangalore, Karnataka. **3. Sri P. Srinivas** S/o Puttappa, No. 21, 1st Main HAL 2nd Stage, Kodihalli, Bangalore, Karnataka. **4. Legal Heir : 1 Smt. Savitha** W/o Late Rajendra, No. 32, 18th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Opp Panchayatti Apartments, Bangalore, Karnataka-560008. **5. Legal Heir: 2 Smt Chetana** D/o Late Rajendra, No. 32, 18th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Opp Pachayatti Apartments, Bangalore, Karnataka-560008. ...Additional Defendants/LRs

Certificate Holders Name	Int. Type/ Mode	Effective Date	Order Date	Int. Rate	Type of A/c	RC Amount (Rs.)
Bank of Baroda	Simple Interest	27/07/2013	05/06/2024	10% p.a.	-----	28,94,138.00

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT-1) in OA/495/2014 an amount of **Rs.28,94,138 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh ninety four thousand one hundred thirty eight only)** along with and future interest @10% per annum Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. **22/07/2013** till realization and costs from defendants 2&3/certificate debtors 2 & 3, jointly and severally and by sale of the schedule immovable property and also from the assets, if any, left by deceased 1st defendant in the hands of additional defendants 4 & 5 / certificate debtors 4 & 5, who shall be personally liable to the extent of the value of such assets in the event of their failure to satisfactorily account for the same of Rs.**31,000 (Rupees Thirty One Thousands Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

Sr. No.	CD Name	Int type / Mode / Int Rate	Effective Date / Order Date	Liability Type	Interest as on Order Date	RC Amount (Rs.)
1.	D2/CD1 Sri. M. Sunder	Int type / Mode: Simple Interest (Yearly) / Int Rate 10%	Effective Date: 22/07/2013 / Order Date: 05/06/2024	Jointly and Severally	-	2894138/-
2.	D3/CD2 Sri. P. Srinivas			Jointly and Severally	-	2894138/-
4.	D4/CD3 Smt Savitha (Legal heir of D1 Rajendra)			Personally Liable only to the extent of the value of such assets inherited from deceased defendant no. 1	-	2894138/-
5.	D5/CD4 Smt Chetana (Legal heir of D1 Rajendra)			Personally Liable only to the extent of the value of such assets inherited from deceased defendant no. 1	-	2894138/-

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **04/11/2025 at 10:30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **22/10/2025.**
You are directed that the payment made if any by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the Payment position regularly.
The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the Verification of the Recovery officer . You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars where from the recovery of the debt is to be made.

Sd/- (P.H HEMANTH KUMAR, IRS) Recovery Officer-II

MOSCOW

Russia renews hardline demands for ending war, rules out ceasefire

AFP

Russia on Wednesday renewed its hardline demands for ending the Ukraine war, ruling out a ceasefire or comprehensive negotiations with Ukraine unless it withdrew from the eastern Donbas region. Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy has rejected Russia's demands, saying ceding to them would be tantamount to surrender. AFP

BEIRUT

Israeli drones hit highway south of Beirut, killing 12, including children

AFP

Israeli drones struck three vehicles on the main highway south of Beirut on Wednesday, killing 12 people, including a woman and her two children, the Lebanese Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah infrastructure in several areas in southern Lebanon, hours after telling residents to evacuate. AP

JERUSALEM

Netanyahu's office says he visited UAE secretly during the Iran war

REUTERS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Wednesday that he secretly visited the United Arab Emirates during the Iran war. Mr. Netanyahu met with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the visit, the Israeli leader's office said. The UAE has not commented on the reported visit. AP

MANILA

Gunshots at Philippine Senate as lawmaker wanted by ICC holds out

REUTERS

Multiple gunshots prompted Philippine senators to shelter in their offices late Wednesday, as former President Duterte's top enforcer Dela Rosa sought refuge in the Senate complex to avoid ICC arrest for alleged crimes against humanity. No casualties were reported and search for gunmen were ongoing, an official said. AFP

King's speech outlines U.K. govt. agenda as Starmer's future hangs in the balance

The U.K.'s commitment to NATO is 'unbreakable', says the monarch; prior to the speech, the Prime Minister held a meeting with his Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, that lasted under 20 minutes; Streeting is expected to launch a leadership challenge as early as Thursday, report British media

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

In an annual ritual dating back hundreds of years, Britain's monarch King Charles III on Wednesday opened the current session of the U.K. Parliament by setting out the government's agenda for the year ahead.

The affair involves an MP being taken hostage, ceremonially, and kept at Buckingham Palace to guarantee the monarch's safety while he is in Westminster. However, it was British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's political safety that was in question – with more than a quarter of his MPs asking for his resignation on Tuesday, days after Labour sustained heavy losses in the local and regional elections across the U.K.

King Charles III with Queen Camilla during the State Opening of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster in London. AP

Prior to his arrival in Parliament, the Prime Minister held a meeting with his Health Secretary and possible replacement, Wes Streeting, that lasted under 20 minutes. Mr. Streeting represents the part of Labour Party that is closer to the centre, with Energy Minister Ed Miliband and former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner on the "soft left" of the party.

Mr. Streeting's allies believed he would launch a leadership challenge as early as Thursday, according to reports in the British press.

Starmer seeks time

Mr. Starmer has argued that given the challenging domestic and global environment, he needed time to deliver the "change" Britons voted for in 2024, when he led the Labour party in a landslide election victory.

"An increasingly volatile world threatens the United Kingdom – the conflict in the Middle East, only the most recent example," the King said, as Mr. Starmer stood in the central hall of the British Parliament, a troubled look on his face.

"Every element of the nation's energy, defence and economic security will be tested," the King said.

The government would take steps to bolster energy and economic security as well as the defence of the U.K., the King announced. There was also a reference to "decency, tolerance and respect for difference under our common flag".

Mr. Starmer has argued that he is the man to keep the nativist Reform U.K. in check, as it made significant electoral gains last week across England, Scotland and Wales. Labour lost votes to Reform on the right and the Greens on the left in England, and Plaid Cymru a centre-left nationalist party in Wales.

Among the plans announced in the speech were legislation to strengthen ties with the European Union (EU) and infrastructure spending within the U.K.

The U.K. government would be an advocate for tackling climate change and poverty globally, the King said.

The U.K.'s commitment to the West's military alliance – NATO – was "unbreakable", the King said. The alliance's future has been on shaky ground after U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly threatened to pull America out of the group.

Trump to begin talks with Xi on Iran war, trade, U.S. arms sales

Associated Press
BEIJING

Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for his hotly anticipated talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the Iran war, trade and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

The meat of the summit doesn't start until Thursday, when the leaders hold bilateral talks, and take part in a formal banquet.

The President was greeted by Chinese Vice President Han Zheng; Xie Feng, China's ambassador to Washington; Ma Zhaoxu, executive vice minister of foreign affairs; and the U.S. envoy to Beijing, David Perdue.

"We're the two superpowers," Mr. Trump told presspersons as he departed the White House. "We're the strongest nation on Earth in terms of military. China's considered second."

The visit occurs at a delicate moment for his presidency as his popularity at home has been weighed down by the U.S. and Israel's war with Iran and rising inflation.

The Trump administration hopes to begin establishing a Board of Trade with China to address differences between the countries.

In Qom, Indian volunteers serving sharbat amid war fears and protests

DISPATCH FROM IRAN

Saurabh Shukla
Saurabh Shahi
QOM

The air in Iran's holy city of Qom carries many scents these days – smoke from recent attacks, dust from restless streets, and the sharp bitterness of a nation living under the shadow of war. But amid the tension, another fragrance quietly drifts through the crowds gathering every evening: chilled Indian sharbat.

As thousands of Iranians pour onto the streets after sunset – some protesting, some mourning, some simply searching for solidarity – a small roadside stall has begun drawing unusual attention. Above it flutters the Indian tricolour. Behind it stand young Indian students, researchers, and businessmen, handing out glasses of pineapple sharbat to exhausted strangers under the blazing summer heat.

In a city shaken by political uncertainty and emotional exhaustion, this modest stall has become something larger than a refreshment counter. For many here, it is a symbol – that while governments may change positions and diplomacy may fluctuate, ordinary people can still choose compassion.

Qom is home to one of the largest Indian communities in Iran. Nearly 3,000 to 3,500 Indians live in the city, many of them students enrolled in religious seminaries and universities. Others are researchers, traders, or retirees who have spent years building lives here.

Symbol of solidarity: Indian volunteers near one of their sharbat stalls in Qom, Iran. SAURABH SHUKLA

When tensions escalated and advisories urged Indian nationals to consider leaving, several members of the community decided to stay back. Some stayed because Qom had become home. Others believed leaving during a crisis would send the wrong message to the people among whom they had lived for years.

Every evening now, many of these Indians gather funds among themselves, buy drinks and supplies, and set up makeshift stalls across protest routes and crowded public spaces.

"We wanted people to know they are not alone," says Haider Abbas, a student from Ahmedabad. "We came here to express grief over the martyrdom of our leaders and to show that we are standing firm. Service is the least we can do in these times."

Not just geopolitics

For many Indians in Qom, the conflict is not viewed merely through the lens of geopolitics.

Abid Raza Naushad Rizvi, a research scholar living in the city, describes it in deeply moral terms. "This is not just a war between two countries," he says. "People here see it as a battle between truth and falsehood, oppression and resistance, humanity and cruelty. Anyone who believes in justice cannot remain emotionally distant from what is happening."

Such views are common among sections of Qom's deeply ideological atmosphere. Yet, despite the charged rhetoric, the Indian volunteers insist their work is focused on humanitarian support, not political mobilisation.

In recent months, certain diplomatic developments had created unease among some Iranians regarding India's political positioning. Conversations in cafes and markets occasionally reflected disappointment and suspicion. But those emotions, several locals say, softened after seeing Indian volunteers actively participating in relief and solidarity efforts on the streets. Nazar Abbas Rizvi, a research scholar originally from Lucknow, recalls receiving a handwritten letter from an Iranian woman.

"She wrote that when the war began and India's official position appeared to change, she became upset with Indians," he says. "But after seeing Indian stalls on the streets and watching Indians serve people every evening, she realised that ordinary Indians still stood with the people of Iran."

On crowded evenings in Qom, volunteers carry giant steel containers filled with pineapple syrup and ice. Plastic cups are passed rapidly from hand to hand as crowds move through the streets. Many Iranians stop first because they notice the Indian flag. Others stay back to talk.

"These are civilisational ties," says Abid Rizvi. "India and Iran have centuries of cultural connection. Our country also fought colonial rule and understands the value of independence and resistance."

Shadow of uncertainty

Although a ceasefire currently holds, fear has not disappeared from Qom.

People still speak in hushed voices about the possibility of renewed attacks. Security remains tight in sensitive areas.

And yet, amid all this, life continues. Markets reopen every morning. Seminaries conduct classes. Children play in narrow alleyways. And each evening, Indian volunteers return to their stalls with coolers full of sharbat.

The Indian tricolour fluttering over a sharbat stall in Iran may not alter the course of geopolitics. But on the streets of Qom, where fear, grief, and uncertainty currently define daily life, it has managed to create something equally powerful: trust.

(Saurabh Shukla and Saurabh Shahi are senior editors with The Red Mike)

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR ADVISORY, GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSURANCE OF THE DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT, 2023 (DPDPA) IN INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7526966 DATED 11.05.2026

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION: ROURKELA
INVITATION FOR BID
No. 6021 Dated 08.05.2026
Bid Identification No.:- MC/RMC/39/2026

The Municipal Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation on behalf of Rourkela Municipal Corporation invites bids for works on percentage rate basis in double cover on online Mode. Bid Identification **No. MC/RMC/39/2026** for **01 no**. Civil work with value of **Rs. 60.25 Lakh**.

1. Bid documents will be available in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** from **11.05.2026.**
2. Bids must be submitted on "online" on or before **29.05.2026 by 17.00 hours**.
3. Bids shall be opened at **11.00 hours on 30.05.2026** in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or their authorized agents.
4. Other details will be available in the web site **tendersorissa.gov.in**

Municipal Commissioner,
Rourkela Municipal Corporation

13001/458/2627 OIPR-13001/13131/1/26-27/0026

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from eligible Bidders against Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2026-27/SE0460** for **Upgradation of Existing ESRI Licenses in GIS DAS Proxy Server from ArcGIS 9.3 to ArcGIS 10.8 including Supply, Configuration at BESCOM Data Centre for 2 Years.** Bid documents available from: **15.05.2026, 04:00 PM Onwards.**

The tenders can be obtained through KPP Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further Bidders can take assistance of KPPP help desk Contact Numbers: **080-46010000, 080-68948777** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

Sd/- General Manager (ICT & MIS.),
BESCOM, 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavana,
K.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 001.

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavan, No.43, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025.
Fax: 080-29533673, Phone No: 080-29533679
Email : kswc.eng@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

No: KSWC/ENG/44/F-54/2026-27 Date: 13.05.2026

1. The Managing Director, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore invites e-tender for Selection of Solar Power Developer for Development, Installation of Rooftop Solar PV System of KSWC Warehouses at 52 Centres in Karnataka on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Mode of PPP.
2. Prescribed EMD should be paid through online while submitting the tender.

Name of the work: 1) Cluster 1 - North Karnataka for 23 Locations of Newly Constructed Warehouses Centers of KSWC in various part of Karnataka. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.174.22 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.87,11,000/-. **2) Cluster 2** - South Karnataka for 29 Locations of Newly Constructed Warehouses Centers of KSWC in various part of Karnataka. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.122.40 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.61,20,000/-.

3. E-Tendering should be submitted in two cover system containing "Technical Bid and Financial Bid". Financial bids of the bidder those who qualify in Technical bid will be opened.

CALENEDR OF EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1.	Pre-Bid Meeting	28.05.2026 at 15.00 Hours
2.	Date of Uploading Queries Clarifications	04.06.2026 up to 17.00 Hours
3.	Last date for receipt of Tender	04.07.2026 up to 17.30 Hours
4.	Opening of Technical Bid	08.07.2026 at 15.00 Hours
5.	Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated to the Qualified Bidders

4. The responses prepared by the Bidder and all correspondence and documents relating to the bids exchanged by the Bidder/ Developer will be in English.
5. Managing Director reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information at Employer's address indicated in the invitation of tender during office hours.

DIPR/CP/638/AKAR/2026-27

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross,
West of Chord Road, BWCC, Bengaluru.

No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/03/2026-27 Date: 13-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC, Bengaluru for the work mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / BBMP or any State Government Organizations.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Vrushabhavathinagara Ward No. 47. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 247.93, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 3.72**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18-05-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries: **21-05-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **21-05-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 4)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **29-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **30-05-2026 after 16.30 Hours through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC.

MILESTONE MAN

Kohli becomes first Indian batter to score 14,000 runs in T20s

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Virat Kohli on Wednesday became the first Indian to score 14,000 runs in T20 cricket, achieving the feat in the IPL 2026 clash between RCB and KKR in Raipur. He is the sixth batter — after Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Alex Hales, David Warner and Jos Buttler — to cross the mark in the shortest format.

CHAMPION PLAYER

Bumrah is a fantastic person to be around: fellow MI pacer Bosch

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Bumrah is probably one of the calmer people I've met. He knows that he hasn't been at his best, but he is a class above the rest. You can see the standards he sets for himself; he's still among the best in the competition in terms of economy. He's a fantastic cricketer, a fantastic person to be around — Corbin Bosch on Jasprit Bumrah.

OPPORTUNITY

Chennai Super Kings ropes in Noronha in place of Ramakrishna

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

CSK has signed Karnataka's Macneil Noronha as a replacement for the injured Ramakrishna Ghosh. Noronha will join CSK for ₹30 lakh. The all-rounder was recently awarded the M.A. Chidambaram Trophy at the Naman awards for being the highest run-getter in the 2024-25 Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy.

MORE WOES

Injured Super Kings pacer Overton to return to the UK

AFP

Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Jamie Overton, who has a right thigh injury, will be returning to the UK for further assessment and management, the team said on Wednesday. It is another blow for the Super Kings who have grappled with injury issues in IPL 2026 as the Englishman was one of the star performers with 14 scalps.

Kohli's masterful knock powers Royal Challengers to the top

The Bengaluru opener, who was dismissed for a duck in the last two games, roars back with an unbeaten century to guide his side to a facile win over Knight Riders; his 92-run partnership with Padikkal puts the home team on the road to victory

IPL-19

Anish Pathiyil
RAIPUR

A wristy flick past mid-on off his second ball, and all the doubts about Virat Kohli's lack of runs vanished into thin air.

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru veteran, who was dismissed for nought in the last two encounters, stamped his class at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Stadium here on Wednesday. His calculated unbeaten 105 helped the side overhaul Kolkata Knight Riders' 192 for four with five balls to spare.

The pursuit began with fluency despite the early dismissal of Jacob Bethell, who was caught and bowled after pulling a shot into his helmet.

Kohli's positive start at the other end rubbed off on Devdutt Padikkal as the southpaw struck two consecutive boundaries. The Knight Riders did not help their case with two dropped catches. Kohli's fierce slap through covers burst through the fingers of Rovman Powell, while Vaibhav Arora was guilty of dropping a dolly, offered by Padikkal, at deep square-leg.

The duo's 92-run association ended when the No. 3 batter carved one straight to skipper Ajinkya Rahane at cover. But the break in momentum made no difference to Kohli, who pressed on the accelerator to get to his ninth IPL century and seal RCB's eighth win.

Earlier, after KKR was asked to bat first on a pitch that was under covers for a considerable period, openers Rahane and Finn Allen fell after brisk starts. Bhuvneshwar Kumar removed Allen with a length ball that cramped him for room and forced an edge to the wicketkeeper. Rahane was undone by a Josh Hazlewood bouncer that skidded through.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi managed to keep the runs flowing with boundaries through the leg-side as Cameron Green settled in.

The acceleration came after the introduction of the lone spinner, Krunal Pandya, with the duo collecting two towering sixes over midwicket. But Green was castled by Rasikh Salam after a 68-run partnership.

Raghuvanshi looked largely untroubled en route to a 32-ball half-century, his fourth of the season. The right-hander's sporadic hits to the fence, combined with Rinku Singh's proactive knock, ensured KKR got to a respectable total, but it proved inadequate once Kohli marked his guard.

Marauder: Kohli's ninth IPL hundred contained 11 fours and three sixes. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Ajinkya Rahane c & b Hazlewood 19 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Finn Allen c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 18 *(8b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi run out 71 *(46b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Cameron Green b Rasikh 32 *(24b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 49 *(29b, 3x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 192.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Allen, 2.3 overs), 2-48 (Rahane, 4.4), 3-116 (Green, 12.2), 4-192 (Raghuvanshi, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-34-1, Duffy 4-0-48-0, Hazlewood 4-0-35-1, Rasikh 4-0-35-1, Krunal 4-0-39-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Jacob Bethell c & b Tyagi 15 *(12b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 105 *(60b, 11x4, 3x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal **(Impact Player for Duffy)** c Rahane b Tyagi 39 *(27b, 7x4)*, Rajat Patidar c Rahane b Narine 11 *(8b, 1x6)*, Tim David c Pandey b Tyagi 2 *(3b)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 8 *(5b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-4, w-10): 14; Total (for four wkts. in 19.1 overs): 194.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-37 (Bethell, 3.2), 2-129 (Padikkal, 13.1), 3-157 (Patidar, 15.6), 4-180 (David, 17.5).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Saurabh Dubey **(Impact Player for Allen)** 2.1-0-21-0, Vaibhav 4-0-48-0, Tyagi 4-0-32-3, Narine 4-0-31-1, Green 2-0-22-0, Anukul 3-0-36-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Kohli.
RCB won by six wickets with five deliveries to spare.

Next assignment

KKR: May 16 vs. GT Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

RCB: May 17 vs. PBKS Dharamshala, 3.30 p.m.

Misfiring PBKS faces MI, aims to snap four-game losing run

Abhishek Saini
DHARAMSHALA

Punjab Kings will be desperate for a turnaround when it takes on Mumbai Indians in an IPL 2026 fixture at the HPCA Stadium here on Thursday.

After leading the standings for nearly four weeks, PBKS slumped to fourth place on the back of four straight defeats. Another slip-up will leave it in a scrap for the final playoffs spot.

Fifties from skipper Shreyas Iyer and Priyansh Arya against Delhi Capitals were reminiscent of the batting flourish that was the backbone of Kings' early success.

But its bowling lapses continue to cost it.

PBKS leaked 73 runs off four overs at the death against the Capitals, and has the worst economy rate in this phase this season (11.66).

The silver lining, though, has been Arshdeep Singh delivering again up-front. He has three wickets at an economy of 8.15 in the last three games after a horrid run which got him just four wickets in eight games before that.

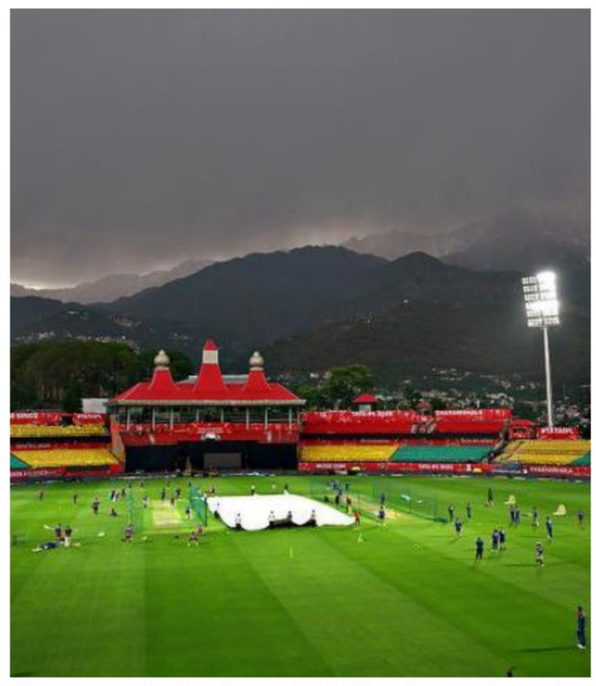
"Arshdeep is a terrific cricketer. And these big cricketers rise at the right moment. I think now is the right time and our coach Ricky Ponting always speaks of peaking at the right time, at the back-end of the tournament," Punjab Kings' assistant bowling coach Trevor Gonsalves said.

Odds would favour Punjab to get its act together against a Mumbai Indians side that is already out of the reckoning for the playoffs.

Its listless run was already a mood dampener this season, and MI has been handed another cruel blow with stand-in captain Suryakumar Yadav unavailable for the game.

The best chance MI has of getting out of its rut is to take on the misfiring Punjab bowlers.

Ryan Rickelton and Rohit Sharma have nailed their role in setting the pace this year, adding 380 runs in six innings at a run rate of 11.76.



Fingers crossed: After rain curtailed training, Kings and Mumbai Indians will hope weather doesn't affect the match. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's match

PUNJAB KINGS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

Dharamshala, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **35**

PBKS **18** | MI **17**

PREVIOUS MEETING

PBKS won by **seven wickets**, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Rabada in rhythm and Titans on the rise

Pranay Rajiv
AHMEDABAD

Kagiso Rabada could hit the good length with his eyes closed. Probably.

His ability to consistently zone in on that part of the pitch, at high pace, has been the cornerstone of his reputation as one of the best pacers in the world.

In IPL 2026, Gujarat Titans has leaned heavily on Rabada's metronomic skillset to seize an early advantage with the ball.

The South African pacer has already claimed 16 wickets in the PowerPlay in IPL 2026. Only one bowler has ever taken more such wickets in an IPL season - Mohammed Shami (17) in 2023.

On Tuesday, Rabada once again delivered the decisive opening knockout punch. He snared three vital wickets in the PowerPlay to derail Sunrisers Hyderabad's chase and set Titans on the way to a massive win.

Rabada and his new-ball partner, Mohammed Siraj, bowled unchanged through the PowerPlay, persisting with a nagging off-stump line.

The Titans duo maximised the dampness of the Ahmedabad surface by targeting the hard lengths, often slanting deliveries away from the all-leftie SRH top order.

It was an exhibition of unerring pace bowling by two of its best exponents in modern-day cricket. This has been a recurring theme for Titans in IPL 2026, particularly at their home ground in Ahmedabad.

Rabada. VIJAY SONEJI

"Siraj and Rabada have been hitting their lengths very well. That is the advantage of having proper Test bowlers," pointed out GT spinner R. Sai Kishore.

In IPL, rarely do pacers get the right conditions to utilise this Test-match length. When they do, like on Tuesday, it allows them to strike up something important - rhythm.

"Rhythm is everything," explained Rabada after receiving the Player of the Match award on Tuesday. When a bowler like Rabada enters that flow state, it is inevitably perilous for opposition batters, as SRH found out.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.551
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	11	6	4	1	13	0.428
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	6	1	9	-0.198
Mumbai Indians (E)	11	3	8	0	6	-0.585
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	11	3	8	0	6	-0.907

E: Eliminated

Profligate bowling and shoddy fielding hurting Punjab Kings

S. Shrivathsan

Punjab Kings, a team that looked like an unstoppable force about three weeks ago, is now struggling to get a 'W' next to its name.

In a matter of a few matches, PBKS, which made a rousing start to IPL 2026, has seen its cracks exposed. The Shreyas Iyer-led side masked its weaknesses by consistently outbatting opponents in the first half of the 19th edition, but since the time the rivals uncovered them, the Punjab outfit has been on a downward spiral.

The 2025 runner-up has plenty of holes to plug in the bowling and fielding departments. The bowlers have leaked runs at approximately 10.6 runs per over, the worst average economy rate in the league as of Tuesday. Kings have conceded 200 or more seven times already this season, besides the 195 they gave away against Mumbai Indians.

Wicket-taking is another area that requires immediate repair. Only left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (13) has scalped 10 or more so far. Compared to the rest of the top-four teams – Gujarat Titans, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad – that have at least three bowlers with 10 or more scalps, PBKS has been well behind par.

Arshdeep, despite being the side's top wicket-taker, is battling for consistency, while his pace partner Marco Jansen has hardly posed a threat. Leggie Yuzvendra Chahal is not trusted enough in spite of being the lone specialist spinner for most part of the campaign.

Poor fielding, especially dropped catches which have proved harmful, has also massively contributed to PBKS' downfall. If Kings' butter-fingered fielders had come up with an improved show against Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals, the team may not find itself in the dire situation it is in now.

PBKS has to act quick and smart if it harbours hopes of advancing to the playoffs.

Not sharp enough: Jansen's bowling has lacked bite this season. R.V. MOORTHY

Sreejesh no longer National junior coach

The former goalkeeper questions the preference for foreigners; asks why home-grown coaches aren't chosen to develop Indian hockey

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A Junior World Cup (JWC) medal after nine years apparently isn't good enough for Hockey India with the federation deciding not to renew P.R. Sreejesh's appointment as the chief coach.

Sreejesh, who was handed charge of the junior men's side soon after his retirement post the Paris Olympics, had been without contract since December 2025. India won bronze playing at home, its first medal since the 2016 title triumph.

"It seems like my coaching career comes to an end after 1.5 years, during which we played five tournaments and secured five podium finishes, including a Junior World Cup bronze medal. "I have heard about coaches getting fired after bad performances. But this is the first time I am experiencing being removed to make way for a foreign coach... can't Indian coaches develop Indian hockey?" Sreejesh questioned in a social media post on Wednesday.

"(Hockey India president) Dilip Tirkey told me that Craig Fulton prefers a foreign coach because it will help in coordination and developing a streamlined, uniform structure between junior and senior sides. I only want to know why he cannot coordinate with an Indian coach?" Sreejesh told *The Hindu*.

Fruitful stint: India finished on the podium all five times when Sreejesh was at the helm. FILE PHOTO: G. MOORTHY

"I was told, 'we need someone experienced' but did they not think of it when they first gave me the responsibility? I had zero experience back then! Then they said, 'we will give you the development side' but doesn't lack of experience matter for the development side and do we even have a well-defined one?" Sreejesh further questioned.

While HI hasn't made any official announcement, it has been learnt that the federation has expressed its preference for Frenchman Aymeric Bergamo, who led France to third place at the 2021 JWC.

Bergamo in contention

Interestingly, that is the only achievement with a national team for Bergamo, who has since been associated with various European club sides. Hockey India officials refused to speak on the matter with secretary-general Bhola Nath Singh saying, "I do not wish to comment".

Hockey India refutes Sreejesh's charges

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hockey India (HI) on Wednesday refuted the charges made by former India goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh over his removal as the head coach of the junior national team.

Stating that Sreejesh's coaching term officially concluded as per contract in December 2025, it said as per protocol, the position was advertised and applicants were shortlisted and finalised as per a proper merit-based selection process.

"A coach with distinguished qualification has been selected as a result of this process and will be announced shortly," the HI said in a statement.

"We had offered Sreejesh the position of coach of the development team... this would have furthered his experience and exposure as a coach.

"However, he did not accept this position despite being asked to reconsider the decision. In no terms has it ever been conveyed to him that there has been any preference for a foreign coach by the chief coach," the HI further said.

"We are collectively working towards the vision of our government to build a pathway towards 2036 and a big part of that process is to develop our Indian coaching talent.

"Development of the grassroots and home-grown coaches has always been central to the interests of Hockey India as a national sports federation."

In a first in Indian squash, National coach Harinderpal dons player's hat

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Since taking over as the coach of the Indian senior squash teams in September last year, Harinderpal Singh Sandhu has been busy designing training camps for the country's top players and mentoring them.

But the 37-year-old has put the player's hat on again, partnering youngster Om Semwal in the men's section of the National doubles championships here. It is the first time in Indian squash history that a National team head coach is competing in an open National event.

Cyrus Poncha, secretary of the Squash Rackets Federation of India, said there was nothing wrong with Harinder's involvement as a player in the tournament.

"Harinder sought permission to participate. We've got to remember that at the 2022 Asian Games, he won the mixed doubles gold medal with Dipika Pallikal. I would see it more as a positive experience that he can offer other players. Even if he wins the tournament, he will not be considered for selection," said Poncha.

Bracing for action: Harinderpal and Om get ready for the challenge ahead. R. RAGU

Harinder entered the doubles championships with Om after his original partner, Ramit Tandon, withdrew because of injury. He, however, could not take the court on Wednesday as Jinash and Reyansh handed Harinder and Om a walkover.

Harinder, who has largely limited himself to sparring sessions since becoming a coach, is excited to compete again. "I want to share my experience with everyone. Doubles tournaments don't really happen throughout the year," he said.

Meanwhile, all seeded pairs across categories were handed first-round byes.

The results: Men: Round of 16: Shubham & Vedant Patel bt Akashay Deepak & Parthiban 11-8, 10-12, 11-2; Mathew Godwin & Navaneeth Prabhu bt Vidik Karkashe & Yash Sonwani 11-4, 11-6; Ravi Dixit & Vikas Mehra bt Ajinkya Shinde & Omkar Avhad 11-3,11-4; Guhan Senthilkumar & P.R. Sandhesh bt Naman Surana & Pranav Agarwal 11-1, 11-2; Harinderpal Singh & Om Semwal w/o Jinash & Reyansh. **Women: Group B (round robin):** Janet Vidhi & Pooja Arthi bt Kriya Saravanan & Nandikasree (retd). **Mixed: Round of 16:** Ravi Dixit & Janet Vidhi bt R. Dinesh & Ananya Narayan 4-11, 11-5, 11-8.

Five Indians advance in singles at Thailand Open

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

P.V. Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and K. Srikanth progressed to the singles second round on a mixed day for India at the $500,000 Thailand Open Super 500 badminton on Wednesday.

The results: Men: K. Srikanth bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 21-14, 21-15; Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Ayush Shetty 21-13, 17-21, 21-4; Koki Watanabe (Jpn) bt Tharun Mannepalli 21-12, 21-16; Lakshya Sen bt Jason Teh (Sgp) 21-16, 21-17; **Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt Tung Ciou-Tong (Tpe) 21-9, 21-12; Pornpawee Chochuwong (Tha) bt Unnati Hooda 11-21, 21-17, 21-16; Chen Yu Fei (Chn) bt Anmol Kharb 19-21, 21-13, 21-18; Hina Akechi (Jpn) bt Tanvi Sharma 21-17, 21-8; Devika Sihag bt Natsuki Nidaira (Jpn) 21-19, 13-21, 21-15; Malvika Bansod bt Wen Yu Zhang (Can) 13-21, 26-24, 21-13; Thalita Wiryawan (Ina) bt Isharani Baruah 15-21, 21-19, 21-15. **Mixed doubles:** Tsai Fu Cheng & Sung Yu-Hsuan (Tpe) bt Ashith Surya & Amrutha Pramuthesh 24-22, 21-11; Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Boje (Den) bt Tanisha Crasto & Dhruv Kapila 21-9, 21-15; Supak Jomkoh & Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn (Tha) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Gadde 21-15, 21-10.

Easily done: Sindhu took out Ciou-Tong in quick time. INSTAGRAM@BAI_MEDIA

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic Commercial Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No: BMTC/CO/TR/COM/2017/456/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 04/2026-27
(Through e-Procurement Platform)
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Persons/Agencies for Open/Built spaces/commercial space/ parking space through e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	18.05.2026 at 11:30 hrs (Only for Parking space)	Place: Chief Traffic Manager (Com) chamber, 2nd Floor, Central Offices, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru.
Last date for submission of bids		04.06.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.
Date of Opening Technical and Financial bids		05.06.2026 at 17:05 hrs.

Further, EMD amount, area and other details in this regard can be obtained in the e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or by Contacting: **09240214000, 09240214001, 080-22483777 & 7760991222** or E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender Inviting Authority)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ
ನಂ.55, ನೆಲಮಹಡಿ, ಅಭಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಭವನ, ರಿಸಲ್ದಾರ್‌ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560020
No.KSDB/EE/No 1.div/Rental space/2026-27 Date:13.05.2026
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಭಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಭವನದ 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 5000 ಚ.ಅಡಿ ಮತ್ತು 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 1500 ಚ.ಅಡಿ (ಒಟ್ಟು 6500 ಚ.ಅಡಿ) ಜಾಗವು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ದರ ರೂ.60.10 ಪ್ರತಿ ಚ.ಅಡಿಗೆ+ರೂ.2.00 ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ+18% ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ಅರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೊದಲ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ: ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಂ.1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಮೊ :8884492432, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : ksdbeeno.1@gmail.com
ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ನಂ.1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಕೊಅಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/CP/629/Zen/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru - 560064.
No: BNCC/EE/YNK.D/KPPP/04/2026-27 Date: 13-05-2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-04)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Providing Thermoplastic Painting for Rumbler Strips, Lane Markings, Junction Markings, Different Type of Sign Boards, Pelican Signals and Kerb Stone, HRPC and Other Safety Furniture's as per Traffic Police Requests in Yelahanka Division. **(2nd Call) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 140.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,10,000.00**
2	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Yelahanka Old Town Sub Division. **(2nd Call) - (CAT-II (A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 9,375.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Document can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **18-05-2026 at 15.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **22-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **25-05-2026 after 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BNCC.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer & Head (AH),
Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560092.
Tend No: BNCC/CVO & H (AH) /TEND/01/26-27 Date: 13.05.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Chief Veterinary Officer & Head (Animal Husbandary), Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done For catching and shelter maintence of institutional dogs, Bengulure North City Corporation (BNCC) limits for the below work through KPP Portal by the Chief Veterinary Officer & Head (Animal Husbandary), Bengulure North City Corporation (BNCC).

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Consultancy Services for catching and shelter maintence of institutional dogs, Bengulure North City Corporation (BNCC) limits. **Project Cost : Rs.183.60 Lakhs. EMD : Rs.2,75,400/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-bid Meeting : **19.05.2026 @ 11.30 AM** Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer & Head (AH) Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560092 **(2)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **28.05.2026 up to 4:00 PM (3)** Opening of Technical bid : **29.05.2026 at 4:30 PM.**
Sd/- Chief Veterinary Officer & Head (AH), BNCC

ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
CHIKKABALLAPURA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.
ಸಿಟ್ರಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಮೇಡೋಸ್, 4ನೇ ಸೆಕ್ಟರ್, ತುಮಕಲಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–562103. Sitrus City Meadows, 4th Sector, Tumakalahalli Village, B.B.Road, Chikkaballapur-562 103. Email ID:cuda.cbpur@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08156–274501.
ಸಂ:ಚಿ.ನ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/Tender/03/2025-26 DATE: 12.05.2026
Invitation for Tender
(For Lake Works –As per standard Bid Document KW 4 in two cover system.)
(1) The Commissioner, Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority Invites Tenders from the eligible tenderers, for the construction of lake works detailed in the table below in Two cover document procedures as per KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed. **(2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurment website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (3)** Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **(4)** Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Commissioner, Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority during working hours **(5)** Head of account: Lake development Cess. **(1)** Pre-bid meeting on **20.05.2026, 11:00 AM (2)** submission of queries **19.05.2026, 12.00 AM (3)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **28.05.2026, 05:30 PM (4)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid**: 31.05.2026, 11:00 AM (5)** Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: **06.06.2026, 04:00 PM** or later. **Name of work: (1)** Development of Lake Bund, Entrance Arch and Toilets in Chitravathi Park by CUDA. (CKBUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1/CALL-2). (Amount put to tender Rs.3,84,09,508.33). In case of Any change in calendar of events, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. No separate paper notification will be given.
Sd/- Commissioner,Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority, Chikkaballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:59/KSMCA/2026-27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
North-2	BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT3322 Date: 13.05.2026 (2nd Call)	Rs.51,71,000/- / Rs.1,03,450/-	21.05.2026 upto 4:00 PM	22.05.2026 after 4.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design and QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

(BW & PS)-2	BWSSB/EBWPS-2TE/AE/27/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026	Rs.76,87,045/- / Rs.1,53,800/-	22.05.2026 upto 11:00 AM	25.05.2026 after 11.15 AM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (BW & PS)-2
The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/639/SSC/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore – 570023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.18/ 2025-26/ (Call-3) DATED: 27-04-2026
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore invites Re-tender (Call-3) in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-4** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **2024-25- 5054 Rain Damage** for Nanjangudu Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 06.05.2026 to 16.05.2026 upto 16.00 hours,** The date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 18-05-2026 after 17.00 hours**. After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows. **Sl.No.1 Name of work:** Construction of CC drain and asphalt road to Chandikeshwar temple road of Tagadur village which comes between the road from Tagadur village to Ahalya village and Construction of CC drain and C.C road within thevillage limits of Alaganchi, Kira gunda, Biligere, Haropur, Bilugali, Hadinarumole, Immavu hundi, K.S.Hundi, Bidargudu and Ahalya in Nanjangud Taluk Mysuru District.(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT21391/Call-3)**. Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs):** 455.00 **Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs):** 382.08 **Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs):** 5,75,500.00 **Contractor Eligibility:** Class – II& above For more details visit website: htpp://www.kppp.karantaka.gov.in contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore (Ph: 0821-2560853) during office hours.
DIPR/DDMYS/169/KSMCA/134/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli , Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph: 080-25191039
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Bid No.: BMRCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT134 Date: 13.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Maintenance Contract for Artificer works (Petty Repairs) at Magadi Road(MIRD), Hosahalli(HSLI), Vijayanagar(VJN), Attiguppe(AGPP), Deepanjali Nagar(DJNR) and Mysore Road(MYRD) Stations in Reach-2 of Line-1"**. The works details can be obtained from the e-procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 11.06.2026 up to 15:00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working Hours.
Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR DIVISION
NO:KKRTC:VJP:TR:COMM:361:2026-27 Dated:30.04.2026
E-Tender Publication No: 11/2026
Vijayapur Division invited E-Tender(Through E-Procurement) for Commercial Shops, Refreshment Rooms, Open Space of Various Bus Stands Comes under this Division Detailed tender schedule is as below.
1) Last Date for submitting online application: **25.04.2026** at 17.29 PM.
2) E-Tender Opening **Date :27.04.2026** at 10.00 am onward
For details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Contact D.T.O :7760992252 or Commercial Case Worker (Traffic Section) @ KKRTC, Divisional Office Vijayapur during office hours.
Sd/- Divisional Controller, K.K.R.T.C Vijayapur Division.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/91/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಗಡಿಗಿ ಚೆನ್ನಪ್ಪ ವೃತ್ತ (ರಾಯಲ್ ಸರ್ಕಲ್) ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08392–273479/278168 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮನಪಾಬ/ತಾಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.05.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ)
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆವತಿಯಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.106.08 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.189.10 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **1) DMA/2026-27/SE7861, 2) DMA/2026-27/SE7862, 3) DMA/2026-27/SE7858, 4) DMA/2026-27/SE7859 & 5) DMA/2026-27/SE7860** ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.05.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.05.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಾದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.05.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/–ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/2026–27/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/137

INBRIEF

Gyaneshwari bags two medals at Asian senior weightlifting

India's Gyaneshwari Yadav won two medals in the 53kg category at the 2026 Asian senior weightlifting championships in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. Gyaneshwari won a silver in the snatch section with a lift of 88kg and an overall bronze in the event with a combined lift of 194kg. The gold was claimed by Jinlan Zhao of China with total lift of 216kg, while silver went to Vietnam's Hoai Huong Nguyen (total 195kg).

East Bengal retains the IWL crown

East Bengal successfully defended its Indian Women's League (IWL) title after the match between Sethu FC and SESA FA ended in a 1-1 draw in Kolkata on Tuesday. Later in the day, the Moshal Girls eased past Nita FA 2-0 with Soumya Guguloth bagging a brace. Gokulam Kerala FC secured a 1-0 win over Sribhumi FC. Following the conclusion of Matchday 12, champion East Bengal sits at the top with 33 points. Sethu is second with 23 while Kickstart is in third with 19.

Itisha rallies to down Pooja in 76kg final

World under-23 bronze medallist Nishu posts a 9-3 win over Himanshi to take the 53kg crown; World championships participant Vaishnavi gets the better of Anjali to clinch the 62kg title

WRESTLING

Y.B. Sarangi
NANDINI NAGAR (U.P.)

Young Itisha Choudhary warded off a strong challenge from Pooja to take home the women's 76kg gold medal at the senior Open ranking wrestling tournament on the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya campus here.

Keen contest

In a keenly fought final bout, Itisha took a one-point lead before Pooja levelled the scores.

Itisha gathered two more points to reclaim her advantage and used her strong defence to emerge the winner.

World under-23 bronze medallist Nishu posted a 9-3 victory over Himanshi to take the 53kg crown.

In 57kg, where Vinesh Phogat had registered but could not participate after being rendered ineligible by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), World under-20 silver medallist Reena emerged as the champion.

In a one-sided final, Reena recorded a 10-2 victory over Kajal Choudhary.

Complete dominance: Reena, right, recorded a 10-2 victory over Kajal in the 57kg title bout.
SANDEEP SAXENA

World championships participant Vaishnavi Patil (62kg) defeated Anjali 8-6 to claim the yellow metal in another Olympic weight class.

The results (finals):
Women: 50kg: Ankush (Har) bt Rachana (Har) 4-3; **53kg:** Nishu (Har) bt Himanshi (Har) 9-3.
55kg: Nisha (Har) bt Naina (Har) 10-8; **57kg:** Reena (Har) bt Kajal Choudhary (U.P.) 10-2.
59kg: Sito (Har) bt Simran (Har) 10-2; **62kg:** Vaishnavi Patil (Mah) bt Anjali (Har) 8-6.
65kg: Anjali (Chd) bt Dishun (Har) 10-0.
68kg: Anshu (Har) bt Bhateri (SSCB) 16-6; **72kg:** Bipasha (Del) bt Riya Kaushik (Har) by fall;
76kg: Itisha Choudhary (UP) bt Pooja (Har) 3-1.

India should target more Olympic medals, feels Alka Tomar

Y.B. Sarangi
NANDINI NAGAR (U.P.)

Alka Tomar, the first Indian woman to land a World championships medal, feels the country needs to focus on winning more wrestling medals at the 2032 Olympic Games and increase it further in 2036, as India is keen to host the mega event after 10 years.

"We are hoping to host the Olympics... we would like to do well there. Our target should be the 2032 and 2036 Olympics. Every wrestler needs to develop a positive mindset," Arjuna Award winner Alka told *The Hindu* here.

As wrestling is expected to return to the 2030 Commonwealth Games, India, as the host, should try to secure as many medals as possible and boost its tally, feels Alka.

A 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games champion, Alka fondly remembered her famous upset win over multiple Olympic medallist Tonya Verbeek of Canada in the 59kg final and wants her wards to learn from her strong mindset.

Even her 2006 Worlds bronze medal, despite fitness issues, was the result of Alka's strong resolve. She gave eventual champion Ayako Shoda a run for her money but secured a podium finish to end India's 39-year wait.

Alka wants her trainees to get inspired by her stories and heed her advice to excel. "I tell them about fighting spirit and not to take any shortcuts (doping)," said Alka.

Atletico beats Osasuna, Betis qualifies for CL

LALIGA

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Atletico Madrid consolidated its fourth place in LaLiga with a 2-1 victory over Osasuna on Tuesday while Real Betis beat Elche to guarantee itself a Champions League spot.

The Madrid side is fourth on 66 points behind newly crowned champion Barcelona (91pts), Real Madrid (77) and Villarreal (69), all three with a game in hand.

The results: Celta Vigo 2 (Jutgla 4, 48) lost to Levante 3 (Arriaga 43, De la Fuente 57, Brugue 63). Real Betis 2 (Hernandez 9, Fornals 68) bt Elche 1 (Fort 41). Osasuma 1 (Kike Barja 90+1) lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Lookman 15-pen, Sorloth 71).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 10.30, 11.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Friday)

Tyagi and Manish move into the last-eight stage

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Kriish Tyagi and Manish Sureshkumar kept the Indian hopes high with victories in the round-of-16 of the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Wednesday.

It was a milestone moment for the two as they entered a Challenger quarterfinal for the first time.

Wild card entrant Tyagi posted a fluent 6-4, 6-4 win over Japan's Yuta Kawahashi.

The 19-year-old, fairly new to the senior ranks, showed good composure in crunch points and excelled with a strong forehand, hitting down-the-line winners at will.

In control: Tyagi showed good composure in the crunch points against Kawahashi. K. MURALI KUMAR

Manish overcame qualifier Alastair Gray, who retired midway through the second set due to an illness. Manish's dependable groundstrokes helped him win the first set 6-4, before his opponent began to wane.

Gray struggled to chase the ball down, bringing a premature end to the match. Earlier, Mukund Sasikumar went down to second-seed Hamish Stewart 4-6, 4-6.

The results (round-of-16):
Hamish Stewart (GBr) bt Mukund Sasikumar 6-4, 6-4; Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Joshua Charlton (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Keegan Smith (USA) bt Dominik Palan (Cze) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Ilya Ivashka bt Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2.

Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Amit Vales (Isr) 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-4; Manish Sureshkumar bt Alastair Gray (GBr) 6-4, 3-2 retd.; Kriish Tyagi bt Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-4; Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Christopher Papa (USA) 6-2, 6-3.

'Bittersweet' runner-up run inspires Scheffler

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Agence France-Presse
PHILADELPHIA

Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler has turned "bittersweet" feelings over three consecutive runner-up finishes into inspiration ahead of the PGA Championship beginning on Thursday.

The 29-year-old American captured his 20th career PGA Tour crown at the American Express in January. Since then, however, Scheffler has had to settle for second place at the Masters, Heritage and Doral tournaments.

The results left him somewhat pleased yet unsatisfied.

"I would say that they were a little bittersweet," Scheffler said.

"Finishing second hurts. But when you're looking at things to work on, there's a lot less to clean up when you're finishing second than when you're 30th."

Eye on the prize: Scheffler is keen to get back to the top. AP

With four titles and 16 top-10 finishes in his last 20 major starts, Scheffler has arrived at Aronimink well prepared to add to his trophy cabinet. Scheffler and second-ranked Rory McIlroy have together won four of the past five majors, but they never had a Sunday battle down the back nine for a title victory.

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

RISL invites bids from the eligible bidders for request for proposal (RFP) for selection of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) under Rajasthan Fund of Funds (FoF). Total estimated cost is Rs. 33.0 Cr. The details can be seen on the websites: **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, https://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, https://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in.**
UBN : RIS2627SLOB00014
Raj.Samwad/C/26/2596 ACP (Deputy Director)

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (RIE)
(a constituent unit of NCERT, MoE, GoI)
VR College Campus, Trunk Road, Nellore–524 001

VACANCY NOTIFICATION No. 01/2026
Applications invited for **Contractual Teacher positons for the year 2026 -27 (AY):**
ECCE TEACHER (3 post).
For details visit: **www.ncert.nic.in** and **www.riemysore.ac.in**
Officer on Special Duty (OSD)

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Dharshan and Tanishi declared individual champions

S. Dharshan and Tanishi Gupta emerged the men's and women's individual champions respectively at the NRJ State senior swimming championship which concluded in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The two also set new meet records on the final day, with Dharshan coming first in 200m butterfly and Tanishi in 50m butterfly. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre, with 545 points, was the overall team champion.

Select results (winners only, all NMRs):

Men: 50m breaststroke: Vidith S. Shankar (Dolphin) 28.58s; **200m breaststroke:** L. Manikanta (BAC) 2:21.10; **200m butterfly:** S. Dharshan (BAC) 2:02.57.

Women: 50m butterfly: Tanishi Gupta (Dolphin) 27.92; **200m breaststroke**: S. Lakshya (BAC) 2:40.86; **4x200m relay:** BAC 8:57.08; **4x100m medley:** Dolphin 4:25.06.

Making a splash: The Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre team with its big prize. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

State-level (U-15 & U-17) badminton tournament

The Karnataka Badminton Association (KBA), in collaboration with the district administration of Vijayapura, will organise the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State-level (U-15 & U-17) tournament from May 17 to 23 at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Indoor Stadium.

Yuvraj scalps five in Sapphire CC's victory

N.G. Yuvraj starred with a five-wicket haul (5/23) in Sapphire CC's six-wicket win over Sir Syed Cricketers in the KSCA (U-16) inter-club tournament.

The scores: Sir Syed Cricketers 97 in 34.4 overs (N.G. Yuvraj 5/23) lost to Sapphire 100/4 in 21.5 overs.

Johnson 162 in 36.4 overs (Vardhan M. Jayaram 4/32) lost to Young Cricketers (1) 166/8 in 41.5 overs (Vyom Sai Ranjith 43, G. Bipin Shetty 4/34).

YMCA (3) 75 in 28 overs (H.N. Samarth 4/9) lost to Mount Joy 76/3 in 13.5 overs (Avik Jha 46 n.o.).

Visweswarampuram (1) 421/8 in 50 overs (Sanjit Sathish 177, Advay Choudhary 112, Rupankar Nandi 42) bt Mathikere 69 in 27.3 overs.

Jawans 217 in 41.2 overs (Shaurya Yadav 47, Ashwath Reddy Gade 53) bt Wilson Garden 194 in 46.1 overs (R. Lohithaksha 68).

Sachin and Bhati's tons set up Magadi CC's big win

Centuries from A.M. Sachin (140) and Mann Bhati (115) carried Magadi CC to a thumping 228-run victory over MES College in the KSCA Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for fourth and fifth division clubs.

The scores: Magadi 451 in 46.3 overs (Yashmith K. Gowda 53, A.M. Sachin 140, Mann Bhati 115, M.R. Sashvith Somanna 64, A. Muralidhara Rao 4/65) bt MES College 223 in 46.2 overs (V. Vishwas Balaji 42).

Jeevanbhimanagar 244 in 49.2 overs (Aarav Bajaj 92, P. Preetham 58) lost to Zodiac 247/4 in 27.4 overs (M. Pavan Yadav 67, Gnane 65 n.o.).

Crescent (1) 196 in 40.1 overs bt Silky Town, Channapatna 193 in 46.1 overs (A. Mohammed Kashif 75).

Universal Blues routs Undisputed FC

Universal Blues blanked Undisputed FC 6-0 in a Group-B match of the KSFA C-division league football championship here on Wednesday.

Other results: Group-A: FC White Field bt PKR FC 6-1; Blue Star FC bt La Esperanza FC 3-1; Football Aura bt Silican FC 2-1; **Group-B:** Blues Football Academy drew with Samurai Bengaluru 1-1; Kodagu FC bt Velocita FC 7-1.

TVS HOLDINGS LIMITED
(Formerly known as Sundaram-Clayton Limited)
Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006.
Tel : 044-2833 2115 Website : www.tvsholdings.com Email : corpsec@tvsholdings.com
CIN : L64200TN1962PLC004792

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	
1	Total income from operations	346.41	294.72	516.34	637.30	15,587.53	11,800.32	58,154.50	44,993.16
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items) (including discontinued operations)	312.24	264.04	373.42	410.09	1,404.33	958.83	5,169.14	3,616.12
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items) (including discontinued operations)	312.24	264.04	373.10	410.09	1,404.33	958.83	5,118.74	3,616.12
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	268.90	241.58	322.30	352.16	865.36	643.96	3,390.19	2,409.25
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	269.25	240.22	317.29	349.73	1,064.83	682.84	3,889.32	2,458.30
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Rs.5/- each)	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	1,744.31	1,601.02	-	-	6,455.61	4,677.27
8	Securities Premium Account	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42
9	Networth	1,750.83	1,604.56	1,750.83	1,604.56	5,070.00	3,685.20	5,070.00	3,685.20
10	Outstanding Debt	1,593.08	943.81	1,593.08	943.81	36,156.34	32,488.03	36,156.34	32,488.03
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares of Holding Company	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio (including exceptional item)	0.90	0.45	0.90	0.45	4.88	5.93	4.88	5.93
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs. 5/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.) (i) Basic (ii) Diluted	132.91 132.91	119.40 119.40	159.30 159.30	174.06 174.06	209.62 209.62	139.87 139.87	838.12 838.12	575.41 575.41
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiaries) (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiaries) (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
18	Current Ratio (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.44	0.34	0.44	0.34	0.56	0.60	0.56	0.60
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
25	Operating Margin (%)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	77.62	80.42	62.45	54.68	5.54	5.45	5.91	5.35

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on company's website (www.tvsholdings.com).
2 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.
3 The Detailed Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2026 can be accessed through the QR code.

Date : 13.05.2026

For TVS Holdings Limited
Sd/-
Venu Srinivasan
Chairman

A BG-BGE